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Allies threaten to use force in Zakho

Iraqis told to get out of town in 24 hours

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAKHO AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States, Britain and France have told Baghdad that it has until tonight to get its security forces out of the town where the allied refugee camps are being set up.

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said last night that allied troops would use force to remove the Iraqis from Zakho, in northern Iraq, if they did not meet the deadline. "Our people have the authority to use the force necessary to make certain that we are able to achieve our objectives," he said.

"We have sufficient forces in the area so that there's no question but that we would prevail," Mr Cheney said. The United States may well send extra forces. There are now 7,000 American military personnel on the Turkish border and in northern Iraq.

The White House said the 13-point ultimatum was delivered to Dr Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi representative at the United Nations. The instruction said the armed police must start leaving the town at 3am this morning, London time, and that the operation must be

complete in 24 hours. Within hours of the ultimatum being issued, however, it was clear that the lines of communication between the allied forces on the ground were confused.

Royal Marines from 45 Commando were stood down three hours before they were due to begin patrolling the streets of Zakho, where yesterday hundreds of gun-toting Iraqi "policemen" were still terrorising the Kurds.

The marines alleged that Washington had changed their orders to avoid any fighting between the allies and the uniformed men, claimed by many Kurds to be members of President Saddam Hussein's special forces. American officers denied that Baghdad had been issued with any deadline, although the Royal Marines insisted that it had.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Flocke, the senior American military spokesman, said Baghdad had been formally told to pull out most of the "policemen". "We have asked them to respond quickly, but we have set no deadline."

The presence of the Iraqi forces has deterred many Kurds from leaving their squalid conditions in the mountains to take refuge in the allied camps. The Royal Marines were clearly frustrated that they had been unable to carry out their orders and the tension between the two forces in the town was palpable.

The failure of the marines to begin their patrols disappointed many Kurds who accused the West of dithering about the Iraqi forces. They also expressed scepticism about the provisional agreement on Kurdish autonomy made between Saddam and Jalal Talibani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

"We do not believe anything from Saddam, he cannot be trusted," a Kurdish electrical engineer said. "The Americans and the British must stay and protect us otherwise we will all be killed."

In Washington, Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said the administration supported any accord that allowed the refugees to return to their homes safely, but the Kurds would have to judge for themselves the value of the deal. "Saddam Hussein has a long record of broken promises, including an earlier

accord in 1970 with the Kurds which was broken," he said.

Shia opposition groups were dismayed by news of the deal. A spokesman for the al-Dawa party, based in Iran, urged the Kurds not to finalise it and said that the agreement could prolong Saddam's grip on power. He would then be able to commit more resources to repressing Iraq's Shia communities. "It will deal a heavy blow to the struggle to topple Saddam and he doesn't keep his promises," the spokesman said.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that UN relief agencies are opposing the administration's plan to transfer control of the refugee camps to the UN once they are up and running. As a result, allied troops may have to operate the camps indefinitely. Mr Fitzwater conceded that there were "many questions that have to be ironed out in the weeks ahead" and indicated that a new UN Security Council resolution might be required.

The newspaper quoted UN officials who said the American plan violated their basic principles for operating relief programmes as the host government, Iraq, was not co-operating. "You won't see a UN flag flying over the camps unless the Iraqi government agrees to it," said one.

Shortly before the decision was taken to delay the allied foot patrols in Zakho, a number of Royal Marines intervened to stop Iraqi "policemen" abducting a Kurd involved in a car crash. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomson, the commanding officer, said: "The man had been hurt in a car crash after curfew and we had put him in a taxi [to go to hospital] when eight of the Iraqi policemen appeared and tried to pull him out. We had to make it plain to them that is not the way we do things."



Independent schooling: children in Tbilisi taking part yesterday in a three-minute strike to protest against Soviet interference in Georgian affairs

Gummer rules out whaling support

Until there is a humane method of killing, Britain will not back whaling, reports Michael McCarthy

Britain will not support the resumption of commercial whaling until there is a method of killing whales humane enough to meet British animal welfare standards, according to John Gummer, the agriculture and fisheries minister, and such a method, he says, does not exist. "It is about to be on the horizon."

Mr Gummer's unequivocal declaration, in an interview with *The Times*, is as close as British ministers have ever come to ruling out the option of support for carefully controlled whaling, based on detailed assessments of whale numbers and the careful avoidance of over-exploitation of the stock.

Just such an option is likely to be presented to next month's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Reykjavik, when the present five-year-old moratorium on commercial whaling may be reviewed. Because Britain has based its attitude to whaling on the scientific evidence, anti-whaling campaigners have recently feared that the government would be drawn into support for limited whaling if there was a strong scientific case that this would not drive species to extinction. An alliance of eight leading conservation groups is planning a mass rally in Trafalgar Square on the eve of the meeting to put pressure on the government.

Mr Gummer's clear stance will delight and reassure them, but it will anger Iceland, Norway and Japan, which were hoping to resume whaling after the adoption of the revised man-

Gorbachev trounces moves to oust him

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday defeated conservative moves to oust him from the leadership of the Soviet Communist party, after being subjected to a torrent of criticism and angry demands for a firmer hand against strikes, nationalism and dissent.

But a wave of industrial unrest and political protest continued through the country, despite this week's call by the leaders of nine republics, including Boris Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian Federation, for an end to strikes and civil disobedience.

According to Interfax news agency, virtually all 349 people at a meeting of the central committee and other key party organs voted against moves to consider Mr Gorbachev's removal, while only 13 voted in favour and 14 abstained.

Earlier, he had issued a dramatic challenge to his critics to remove him if they dared. "Seventy per cent of the speakers are criticising me, not from a personal point of view but on behalf of the people. I offer to resign," he was quoted by delegates as saying.

After a tense interval in discussions, the deputy party chief, Vladimir Ivashko, stated on behalf of the ruling Politburo that "it would not be in the party's interests" to discuss a change of leader. This view was overwhelmingly endorsed.

During the break, a letter was circulated from 72 central committee members accusing Mr Gorbachev's opponents of mounting a procedural coup. They threatened to resign from the party's policy-making body and campaign for an emergency congress aimed not at changing the leader, but at purging the committee.

Despite the spectacular political victory, Mr Gorbachev continued to face a troubled situation in the Soviet Union as a whole, with coal miners in Siberia and the Ukraine promising to continue their eight-week stoppage, and tens of thousands of workers on strike in Belorussia.

The Russian Federation's official trade union movement, originally part of the communist establishment but now taking an independent line, has called for a token one-hour "warning strike" throughout the territory today. The demands include a higher minimum wage, shorter working hours and longer holidays. The action is also being backed by Democratic Russia, the pro-Yeltsin mass movement whose leaders were



Recession is receding says Major

By ROBIN OAKLEY POLITICAL EDITOR

AMID growing signs that the government is undertaking contingency planning for an autumn election, the prime minister said yesterday that the country was beginning to emerge from recession as others slipped into it.

Under attack from Neil Kinnock in the Commons, John Major said: "With interest rates having fallen, with inflation having fallen and set to fall significantly further and with the balance of the trade gap narrowing, it's extremely difficult even for you to deny the improvements that are now coming about."

Ministers and Tory MPs were holding their nerve as the pound suffered in the exchange markets, with some grumbling about ingratitude as Saudi Arabian institutions Continued on Page 28, col 4

clearly unhappy yesterday that their mentor had joined Mr Gorbachev in calling for an end to strikes.

The movement is also planning a rally in Moscow on Monday. It claims more than a million members and Mr Yeltsin will need its support during his campaign to be elected as executive president of the Russian republic with enhanced powers.

At the central committee meeting, speakers such as Ivan Polozkov, the notoriously hardline leader of the Russian Federation's Communist movement, branded the Soviet leader with weakness, indecisiveness and neglecting the party.

However Alfred Rubiks, the tough Latvian Communist Party boss and a central figure in January's crackdown on nationalists, wanted the current leader to stay but wield a firmer hand.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

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BEHAVIOUR

Tom Clarke on what happened when the Duke of Edinburgh called in sports leaders to discuss the decline of fair play Page 44

LETTERS

General Colin Powell has provoked plenty of letters over the way to pronounce his first name. Today, the General pronounces Page 23

INSIDE

Parking threat
A Labour government would make some parking offences endorsable and drivers with twelve tickets would be banned. John Prescott, the party's transport spokesman, said yesterday Page 2

Health plan
Leaked government plans for a health strategy for England, which includes targets to combat heart disease, strokes and cancer, were attacked by Labour Page 2

Iraqi 'plot'
A managing director with dual British and Iraqi nationality masterminded a plan to export detonating devices for nuclear bombs to the Middle East because he wanted to help Iraq, the Central Criminal Court was told Page 3

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New Civilian Guard for defence sites

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW unarmed civilian guard force, which will be trained by the Royal Military Police, is to be formed to protect defence ministry establishments.

The 3,000-strong force will not replace the private security contractors at the heart of a highly critical report by the Commons defence committee last year. Instead, all existing defence ministry civilian security officers would be absorbed into one new body which would benefit from common training, uniforms and pay, according to the ministry yesterday.

Defence ministry sources said that private contractors would still be used if they were doing a good job. Once the new force is in place, from April 1 next year, it is expected that the security men and women will take over many of the guard duties now carried out by service personnel and defence ministry police. The 3,000-strong force will probably increase by 1,000.

Private contractors would be used on fewer occasions. But the ministry denied they would be phased out. At present there were 17 private contractors and 51 contracts.



Oxbridge double first for Japanese millionaire

By JOHN O'LEARY HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT



A JAPANESE millionaire benefactor will today score an Oxbridge double first by being made a fellow of colleges at both the ancient universities on the same day.

Shochi Okinaga, president of the Teikyo University Group, will receive his fellowship of Wadham College, Oxford, at a commemorative lunch. He will then be driven to St Edmund's College, Cambridge, for a repeat performance over dinner.

Dr Okinaga's group is probably the biggest investor in universities in the world. Last year, in addition to donating £4.5 million to Wadham and establishing a £7 million campus in Durham, three Teikyo universities opened in the United States. Three more American campuses have been acquired since, and

a Dutch campus will open soon. St Edmund's will become the latest beneficiary today, receiving £1.5 million for student accommodation and conference facilities. In return, St Edmund's will take up to nine Japanese graduate students and one visiting academic a year.

At both universities, Dr Okinaga will join a select band of honorary fellows. St Edmund's has only seven, headed by the Duke of Norfolk. At Wadham, he will be the sixth foundation fellow.

Dr Okinaga, visiting his £10 million Teikyo school near Slough yesterday, said: "It will be the biggest day of my life. Oxford and Cambridge are known all over the world, and they will be very wonderful occasions." The Oxbridge links will bring prestige to Teikyo university, which is only 25-years-old and still climbing up the pecking order of Japanese higher education. They will

also further Dr Okinaga's dream of a "global education system". Australia and East Germany are next in line for campuses, possibly followed by Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand.

Dr Okinaga is the biggest shareholder in the Mitsubishi Bank and owner of several hospitals. His international activities began four years ago with the idea of producing "world citizens" who would make decisions from an international perspective. "Japan is an island country and historically isolated," he said yesterday. "We need to have more contact with other cultures and other kinds of people."

Cambridge is already celebrating a £5 million donation from Simon Sainsbury, the supermarket millionaire, which enabled it to launch its management studies institute yesterday.

APPEAL FOR REFUGEES

The International Refugee Year Trust is dedicated to relieving the suffering of the world's 40 million refugees and displaced people.

It provides food, clothing, medicines and skilled personnel to help the victims of war, natural disaster and economic catastrophe.

To make a donation or find out more, please complete the coupon below.

International Refugee Year Trust
Patron: Mother Teresa

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Return to: International Refugee Year Trust, Unit 29, City Business Centre, Lower Road, London, SE 16 2XB.
Registered Charity No. 802450

Prescott wants to force illegal parkers off the road

MOTORISTS will lose their licence if they collect a dozen parking tickets under a future Labour government. The warning was issued by John Prescott, the Opposition's chief transport spokesman, yesterday as he amplified his party's plans to ease traffic congestion in city centres and to clear the way for faster and more frequent bus services.

Mr Prescott said he envisaged that seriously anti-social parking offences, such as blocking a bus lane, would become an endorsable offence and attract at least one penalty point under the totting up system. He made clear that persistent offenders would be banned from driving once they had breached the disqualification barrier of 12 penalty

points. Mr Prescott, addressing a Labour local government press conference, contrasted the £6.5 billion the government was spending on roads with its £64 million subsidy to local authority public transport investment outside London. That was why Britain had the worst transport system in Western Europe and why government policy was the despair of Tory voters and councillors.

The Labour spokesman promised to get tough with drivers who flouted the wishes of the local community by obstructing bus lanes. Mr Prescott, who was fined £200 and lost his licence for three weeks in January for doing 105mph on the M1 in his Daimler, said that the principle of using the points system

Illegal parking will be made an endorsable offence in John Prescott's tough new transport strategy. Nicholas Wood reports

should be as applicable to parking offences as it was to speeding.

He said that the present system of fining motorists for parking offences suffered from the drawback that the bills were often paid by their employers. He also wanted to see stricter enforcement of parking breaches by fitting spy cameras to buses to gather evidence of breaches.

"There is a limit to how far you can go in using fines to deter illegal parking. Some companies are quite prepared to pay the bills and therefore it is most unfair on others. It might be more effective to begin to endorse licences by, for example, one point."

"You could have a points system for parking depending on the nature of the offence. If it is on yellow lines that hinders the bus system. We would consider them [such] serious social offences that we would offer one-point endorsement. If the person shooting ahead finds that the big bus, your friendly bus, has got a camera and it is likely to be used as evidence in a prosecution, with the possibility of heavy fines and endorse-

ment of a licence and the consequences that has on your insurance company towards renewing your insurance, these will be very attractive deterrents. The offence—namely I can only have so many points before I lose my licence—concentrates the mind."

At the same press conference, Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said there were clear differences between the two main parties' versions of a property tax. The Tories would not replace the poll tax until 1994. Labour's "fair rates" scheme would knock £140 a household off the average headline poll tax bill immediately. Compared with the council tax, Labour's plan would save the average household £57 a year.

Tebbit's secretary ridicules new tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LATENT Tory concerns over Michael Heseltine's new council tax surfaced bizarrely yesterday with an outspoken secretary from Norman Tebbit's secretary and his much-vaunted major.

As John Major stated that more than 70 per cent of people would gain under the council tax, Beryl Goldsmith, the former Conservative chairman's fiercely protective, intensely loyal and highly political aide, complained that it would cost her, a single woman living in London's Barbican, more than the whole Heseltine family living in Westminster.

Miss Goldsmith's under a one-bedroom flat. Under the illustrative figures published this week, she will face a bill of £578 if, as she thinks, her home is placed in band F on the value scale. Mr Heseltine, however, would under those figures have to pay only £227, although he would also face a bill for his country home.

Miss Goldsmith's complaints, discussed informally by ministers as they gathered for yesterday's cabinet meeting and later raised with John Major in the Commons, were voiced furiously in a letter to the *Evening Standard*. She wrote: "Fair, unblemished, a runaway winner" Mr Heseltine must be joking.

Miss Goldsmith, a formidable campaigner, has more freedom than Tory MPs to voice her doubts about the new tax. Those on the right who privately say they do not like it and would have preferred to keep the poll tax accept that the battle has been lost.

Miss Goldsmith said last night: "I have been in politics almost as long as Mr Tebbit and we are very loyal to each other. I do not have to get his approval."

Art collection fund winners

Five awards: Harriet Ezzie, who founded Memorials for Artists after her step-daughter Sophie Behrens, a poet, died of a drugs overdose, and who was last night presented with a 1991 National Art Collections Fund award by Tim Renton, the arts minister.

Other winners were: the Free Form Art Trust; Richard Verdi for his Cezanne and Poussin exhibition; John Mack for art of the Congo exhibition; and St Helen's church, Oxford.

CLARIFICATION

We have been asked to make it clear that The Genesis Group of Orlando, Florida, an entirely reputable company, is in no way connected to Genesis Construction, Florida, which featured in our critical report about the sale of holiday homes on April 8.

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Incorrect information supplied by the environment department led to some errors in our table showing the new council tax levels in England. We publish below the correct figures.

CORRECTION

Incorrect information supplied by the environment department led to some errors in our table showing the new council tax levels in England. We publish below the correct figures.

Council	poll tax	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Newark/Sherwood	548	291	340	388	437	534	631	728	8
Richford	448	235	275	314	353	432	510	598	4
Stoke-on-Trent	544	298	348	397	447	545	642	740	1
Tamworth	581	304	348	391	435	532	629	726	1
Windsor/Maidenhead	574	270	315	360	405	495	585	675	19

Craig Thomas/The Last Raven Fontana/£4.99

Tension, suspense and action dominate this new adventure by Craig Thomas, author of "All The Grey Cast". Patrick Hyde witnesses the shooting down of a Soviet airliner and becomes both hunter and hunted in a chase taking him from Afghanistan to Delhi and on to California.

Price correct at time of going to press. Subject to availability.

WH SMITH
More to discover

People in big cars less likely to be hurt in accidents

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE travelling in big cars are far less likely to be injured in an accident, according to figures issued by the Department of Transport yesterday.

For the first time, the department has issued a casualty figures, compiled from 1989 figures, as they are related to model types, to help buyers discover in which cars they are most likely to be hurt in a crash.

Ford cars had one of the worst scores, with the Fiesta, Escort, Orion, Sierra, Sapphire and Granada all showing worse than average casualty rates. Christopher Chope, minister for roads and traffic, yesterday said: "These figures are available to help consumers make a choice on the basis of the detailed research we have carried out. It is up to them to draw their own conclusions."

Ministers are now planning to issue short guides to buyers to help them sift through the large amounts of data increasingly available from DoT files on car security and safety. Last week, the Home Office issued a guide to vehicle security.

Consumers' organisations have been pressing for a register listing the safety scores of cars, similar to listings in the United States and Sweden available in showrooms to all car buyers. However, the transport department survey does not compare with those listings, and may cause some confusion because it does not suggest the kind of crashes in which cars are involved. Ford said: "We are studying the documents provided by the

Department of Transport but we are unable to discover exactly what the findings re-

late to. There may be consid-

erable discussion over the

meanings of the figures before

they will be clear to motorists

and manufacturers."

DoT engineers say that

performance cars tend to be

involved in higher-speed

crashes and be driven by more

aggressive motorists. Big cars

are shown to be much safer

than small cars, with casualty

rates almost half the average.

The average rate of casualties

for every 10,000 vehicles is 52

for large cars and 82 for small

cars.

The percentage of fatal or

serious injuries, however, is

slightly higher in the big car

category, at 18 per cent against

15 per cent in small cars,

although there is no clear

explanation as to why. Model-

by-model, Ford scores badly,

with the Fiesta topping the list

of accident rates among occu-

pants of small cars registered

after January 1, 1987.

The DoT sample, from

police reports filed in 1989,

showed 97 casualties per

10,000 Fiestas on the roads

compared with the average of

86, the Volkswagen Polo

registered 58.

In the small-medium seg-

ment, which accounts for one-

third of all new car sales in

Britain, the Escort and Orion

series scored 99 against the

average of 80, and a low of 57

for the Mazda 323. Among

medium-sized cars, the Sierra

(97) and the Sierra Sapphire

(96) were again highest,

against the average of 73 and

the low of 47 for the Volvo

340. The Ford Granada scored

78 in the large-cars section

against the average of 52.

Survey based on 10,000 licensed vehicles

in each class. All vehicles registered on

or after 1.1.1987

Holiday discounts end Saturday



Book a holiday before 5 p.m. on Saturday 27th April and you will save up to £150 per person.

The offers are for all overseas holidays and flights taken from Summer '91 brochures or for departures between 1st April and 31st October from any other overseas brochure.

All we ask is that you take out our holiday insurance at the time of booking.

So hurry down to your local Lunn Poly now.

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NHS reforms 'threaten blood product safety'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE safety of blood products in the health service is being threatened by government health policies, a blood transfusion specialist says today.

The policies could increase the importation of blood products that are potentially less safe than those acquired from British donors, Marcella Contreras, of the north London transfusion centre, says in the *British Medical Journal*.

With the introduction of the NHS marketplace, doctors have been given greater clinical freedom to choose from abroad products such as those

for the treatment of haemophilia. Dr Contreras says the foreign products come from blood for which donors are paid but are cheaper because of the cost of Britain's voluntary system.

"Market forces, cloaked in eulogies about clinical freedom, are dictating that patients will receive the cheap and potentially less safe product options, products from paid donors," she says. "The health department should refrain from actively promoting clinical freedom in this aspect of health care."

Services most likely to be

retained will include children's services, renal services and cardiac services, in which

Guy's has achieved a significant reputation. Professor

Keen fears that those most

likely to go will include less

profitable areas such as

psychiatric and geriatric

services.

Staff representatives at the

hospital complained that

workload levels could not be

maintained with a 10 per cent

reduction in staff. Andy

Young, secretary of the trust's

staff side negotiating com-

mittee, said: "The cuts in

service go to show that the

NHS reforms are not about

providing a better health

service but making us cope with

reduced money."

Hector Mackenzie, Colne

general secretary, said: "Guy's

is now behaving like a private

hospital, dumping patients

and services which are not

profitable."

Peter Griffiths, the trust's

chief executive, told staff in a

newsletter that debts of £6.8

million had to be cleared from

previous years and £6 million

more was needed for reinvest-

ment in better services and

improved staff conditions.

The 500-600 jobs would be

shed across the board, includ-

ing doctors, nurses and man-

agers. Most of the posts would

go through freezing recruit-

ment and early retirement but

compulsory redundancies

could not be ruled out.

Services most likely to be

retained will include children's

services, renal services and

cardiac services, in which

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likely to go will include less

profitable areas such as

psychiatric and geriatric

services.

Staff representatives at the

Three 'plotted export of nuclear bomb parts to Iraq'

By RAY CLANCY

A MANAGING director with dual British and Iraqi nationality masterminded a plan to export detonating devices for nuclear bombs to the Middle East because he wanted to help Iraq, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Ali Ashour Daghir's object was to help Iraq to obtain electrical capacitors designed and made in the United States. But the CIA was alerted to the plan by the vigilant head of the company commissioned to make the devices and British customs officers at Heathrow airport intercepted two cases and replaced the contents with dummies.

Alan Moses, QC, for the prosecution, said Euromac, a company based in Thames Ditton, Surrey, whose managing director was Mr Daghir, would only have made "nuts" from the deal. "There was nothing in it for the company. Just the desire of Mr Daghir to help the Iraqis," he said. Mr Daghir, aged 49, of Esher, Surrey, and two co-defendants, Toufic Fouad Amyuni, aged 37, of West Brompton, Kent, and Jeanine Speckman, aged 41, of Addlestone, Surrey, deny conspiracy to export 40 electrical capacitors illegally.

The scheme began in September 1988 when the Iraqi government approached Euromac for help in buying electrical components. An order was placed with an American firm CSI of San Marcos, California, which specialised in making capacitors. Mr Moses said that the devices had to be specially designed because "their purpose was to detonate bombs, in particular nuclear bombs".

The president of CSI became suspicious of the Iraqi requirements. Mr Moses said that although the Iraqis did not detail the purpose of the

capacitors, telexed orders and other documents showed that they were to be of "military specification" and able to withstand shock and vibration at a height of 10 kilometres, "the height that aircraft commonly fly when dropping bombs" and to withstand shock and vibration "sufficient for bombs being carried on the outside of a plane".

The CIA and US customs were alerted and secret observations of the negotiations were carried out. British customs officers became involved and an American customs agent posed as an employee of CSI at a meeting held in the Cavendish hotel, London, in September 1989.

A secret recording of that meeting disclosed that the purpose of the capacitors was going to be falsely described, Mr Moses said. It was decided that the goods would not be exported direct from the United States to Iraq but via Britain and then secretly on to Baghdad. As export director Mrs Speckman was responsible for getting the documents. No licences were ever applied for to export the capacitors from Britain to Iraq. Mr Amyuni, the company's sales director, was to take the devices to Baghdad in his passenger luggage on an Iraqi Airways flight.

However, when two crates arrived at Heathrow airport on March 20, 1990, customs officers were waiting. They intercepted the boxes and found a total of 85 capacitors of which 40 had been "specially designed for detonating nuclear bombs". Those devices were replaced with dummies. They then waited while the crates lay in a warehouse and eight days later made arrests when the boxes were being loaded onto the plane. The hearing continues today.



Groundwork: police search the undergrowth for clues to the disappearance of Rachel McLean, "a typical, pleasant, 19-year-old" student

Sex bias admitted by union

THE union headed by Brenda Dean was yesterday condemned for practising unlawful sex discrimination in the Thomas De La Rue company, which prints paper money (Tim Jones writes). As a result of a ruling by an industrial tribunal at Newcastle upon Tyne, the firm's women employees will receive the same pay and conditions as men doing work of equal value.

The tribunal decided that the Gateshead company knowingly aided the union, Sogat 62, and its Newcastle branch in providing less effective collective bargaining for women than for men, resulting in job segregation and unequal pay. After the four women workers brought the complaint, the union admitted discriminating against them. The company agreed with the finding and settled the women's equal pay claim with an undisclosed sum.



McLean: "Seemed to know stranger on platform"

Fears mount for girl student

IN THE world of Chief Inspector Morse, the disappearance of Rachel McLean from her Oxford lodgings would have been solved swiftly after a burst of Wagner, several pints of real ale and a dash in his Jaguar (Stewart Tendler writes). For Det Supt John Bound, with a Sierra and a taste for rock music, life is not that simple.

Yesterday, ten days after Miss McLean vanished, Mr Bound was balancing a growing investigation with increasing demands from the press and the need to console the girl's parents who had

arrived from Blackpool. At Donnington bridge, police divers were scouring the Isis. On Itley Fields, officers were searching the undergrowth. At Cowley police station, an incident room was working and the files opened on a girl Mr Bound called a "typical 19-year-old: pleasant, happy and enjoying life".

Miss McLean, a second year English student at St Hilda's, had returned to Oxford early to prepare for an examination. She was last seen shortly after 6pm on April 15, saying farewell to her boy friend at the railway station. He is

studying at Nottingham university. While they waited for his train, a man aged between 19 and 22 wearing a leather jacket and jeans spoke to them. He appeared to know Miss McLean and, according to her boy friend, arranged to give her a lift to her lodgings.

Police discovered that she had gone back to her room and changed. Her purse and other belongings were untouched. The bed had not been made and there was no sign when she had last eaten there. "As time goes on," Mr Bound said, "we are becoming more and more concerned."

Battle for Atlantic air trade intensifies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINE competition on transatlantic routes became fiercer yesterday when two big United States carriers, Delta and American, were given permission to fly to Manchester.

Both begin services within two months, ending three years of struggle by Manchester airport for improved air links to America for northern business and leisure travellers. Competition had already been intense when United and American were allowed to operate from Heathrow.

Delta's flights to Atlanta and American Airlines' to New York will put increased pressure on the transport department to negotiate greater access for British airlines to the vast market in America. New talks are to be held in London next week aimed at gaining greater liberalisation of services between Britain and America and transport department negotiators will be pressing hard for rights for British airlines to feed passengers from America's hinterland to main international airports.

More 16-year-olds staying on in full-time education

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN is slowly catching up with its competitors in the number of 16-year-olds who are in full-time education, according to figures published yesterday which show that more than half of those aged 16 are choosing to stay on at school or college.

Britain still lags behind

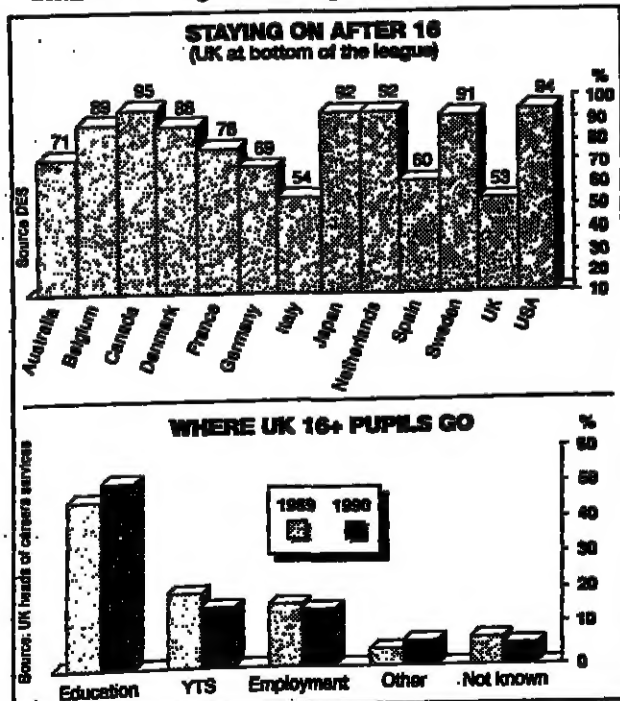
most of Europe, Japan, and America, where around 90 per cent of 16-year-olds continue their schooling, but there has been a steady rise in post-16 education. In 1986, 49 per cent of 16-year-olds continued in full-time education, rising to 50 per cent in 1988 and 53 per cent last year, the first time

that the majority of Britain's young people stayed in the classroom.

The survey of all 575,000 school-leavers in 1990 comes in the same week as the Prince of Wales attacked the country's education service, saying that only one-third of 16 to 18-year-olds were in full-time education. Only one in five 16-year-olds was missing out on either education or some kind of training, according to the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Their survey showed that 55 per cent of those starting work were given on-the-job training while the proportion of teenagers finding government training places fell from 22 to 17 per cent. Those known not to be studying, training or working increased from 5 to 7 per cent. Careers advisers did not know what had happened to the remaining 6 per cent.

Welcoming the survey results, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said: "More and more young people are recognising the importance of continuing their education. Many are also pursuing part-time studies. Overall, well over three quarters of our 16-year-olds are furthering their education in one way or another."



Writer 'demanded \$100,000 for photograph of Seymour'

By DAVID YOUNG

A WRITER demanded \$100,000 (£59,000) for the return of a "pornographic" picture of Jane Seymour, the actress, a court was told yesterday.

George Mendoza, aged 57, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, demanded money from Annie Gould, Miss Seymour's sister, for the photograph and taped conversations which he stole while staying at her home in California, Bath Magistrates' Court was told.

Simon Diaper, prosecuting, said that Miss Seymour had invited Mendoza to stay at her ranch to help her to write a book. "Miss Seymour and other members of her family would supply Mendoza with various amounts of information," he



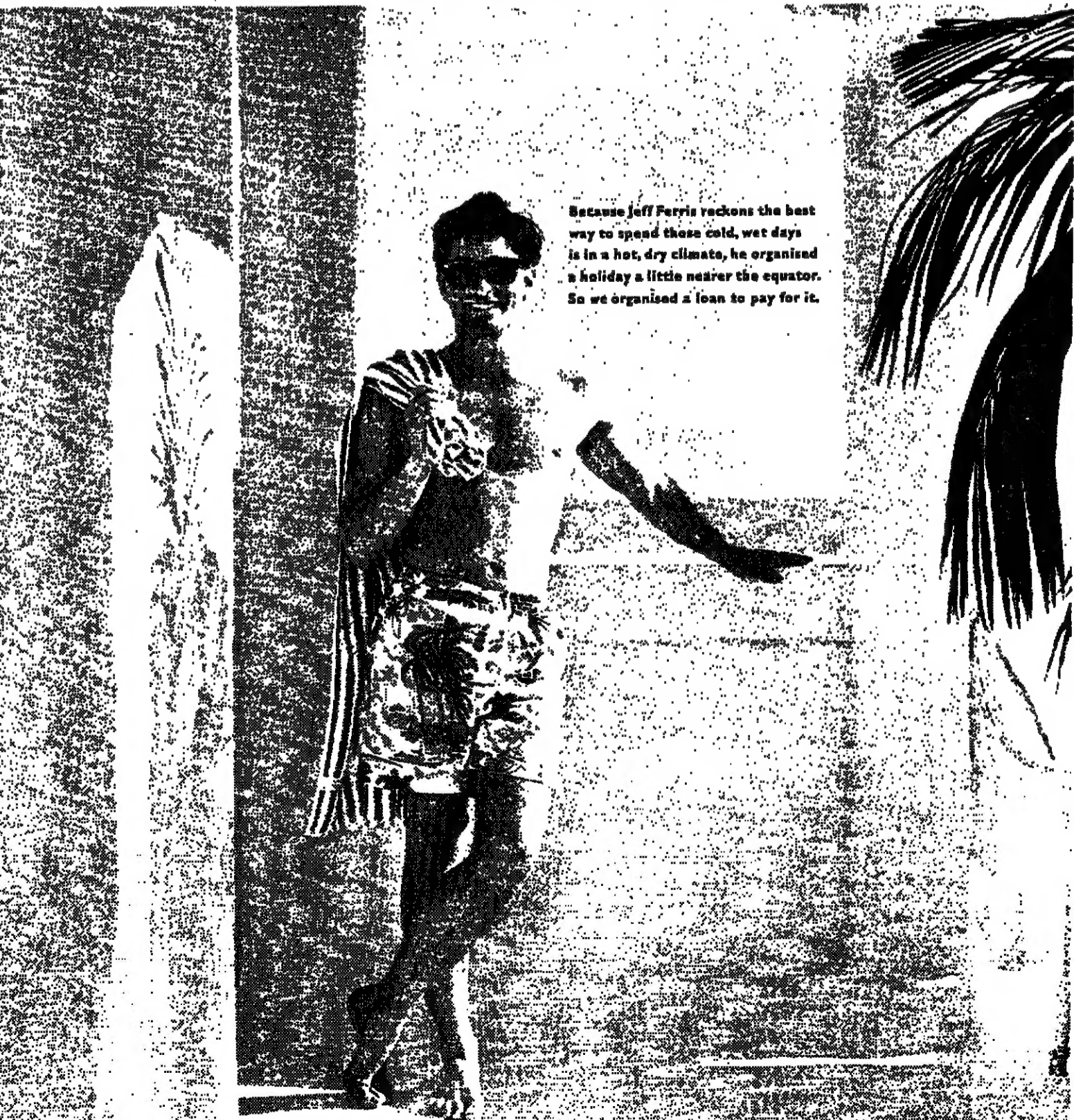
Seymour: asked writer to help her with book

said. "Miss Seymour said some material was taken without her consent." Mendoza sold the world rights to material allegedly stolen from the house for a reported \$40,000 (£23,600) to

The Sun, Mr Diaper said. He added that on April 10, Mendoza telephoned Annie Gould, the actress's sister at Miss Seymour's home near Bath, and in subsequent conversations suggested he had a "pornographic photograph" of Miss Seymour which he would sell back for \$100,000.

Mendoza is charged that, in April this year, he demanded with menaces \$100,000 from Annie Gould in exchange for photographs, taped conversations and other materials that he had in his possession, otherwise he would publish those articles. Magistrates ordered Mendoza, arrested in London on Tuesday, to be remanded in custody until May 2. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

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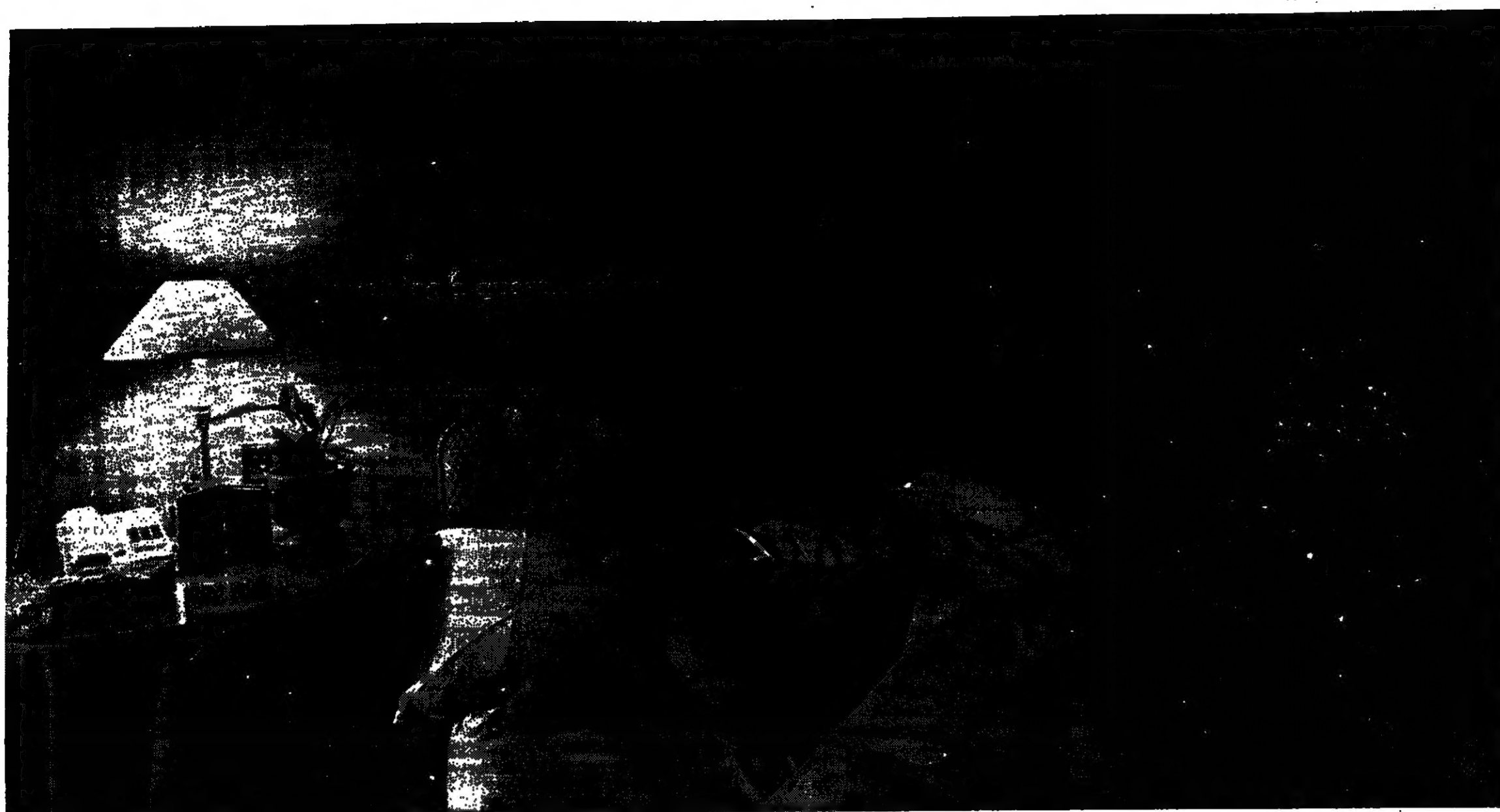


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Scot cal tax- ass

THE Scottish Conservative party was drawing itself for an embarrassing 1991 last night after one of its most prominent members called for the establishment of a Scottish parliament with wide-ranging powers, including the ability to raise taxes.

Simon Stevenson, an MP and a local government minister within the party and a few months ago called for a moderate assembly with powers over most aspects of Scottish life. The assembly would

Orkney to reinstate suspended reporter

ORKNEY council last night agreed to reinstate Kathie Kemp, the reporter whose children's panel was suspended on full-time more than a year ago (K. Gill writes).

Her suspension followed anonymous criticisms to local newspaper about running of the Camowran children's home in Kirkwall, Orkney's main town.

Earlier this week, Ian L. the Scottish secretary, rejected an application by the council to dismiss Mrs Kemp. A examining submissions by council and Mrs Kemp, Lang said that the council had not made a sufficient case to justify her dismissal.

Nick Clayton, the council spokesman, said: "She recommenced her duties soon as new conditions of service have been agreed in consultation with representatives of the Scottish Office recommended by the council of state." He added that Kemp would have responsibility for all new cases.

After Mrs Kemp's suspension, the council appointed Gordon Sloan, from the Orkney Islands, as interim reporter. Sloan was severely criticised over the panel's handling of the case involving the Orkney children taken into care in February after allegations of ritual sexual abuse.

Sheriff David Keir strongly criticised proceedings by the panel and social workers at a hearing into evidence. The children returned to their families a few weeks in care.

Mrs Kemp said: "I have been completely vindicated and I would like now to be running a children's newspaper that Orkney can be proud of."

Last week, Mr Lang announced that a full judicial enquiry would be held into Orkney affair.

Forens justific

By QUENTIN COWDRIE

THE charging system for forensic science services is hampering some minor criminal investigations, but will cost taxpayers better value for money, Janet Thompson, director of the Forensic Science Service, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the official launch of the service as an executive agency, Thompson said: "It is perfectly possible that in the

we did some work which was not very useful such as spending £1,000 in the lab working on a £25 criminal damage case. But it didn't happen often. Because we now know precisely what our costs are and have an even better system of the police's needs, we are offering much better value for money."

Earlier this week the Midlands police said they had been forced to devise strict guidelines governing the use of forensic services because of the charging procedure. The force has allocated £1.25 million this year for forensic work, although it estimates needs £1.6 million. Thompson acknowledged forces such as the West Midlands might have to be more selective in their use of scientists.

From today the six Home Office forensic science laboratories in England and Wales will be run at a length from Whitehall by an executive agency. Ministers claim the move will unshackle the service, making it more cost-efficient. However, some of the 400 scientists help to solve crimes by an

Justice 1250

Scots Tory calls for tax-raising assembly

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish Conservative party was bracing itself for an embarrassing split last night after one of its most prominent members called for the establishment of a Scottish parliament with wide-ranging powers including the ability to raise taxes.

Struan Stevenson, an authority on local government within the party and a leading moderate, called for a devolved assembly with power over most aspects of Scottish life. The assembly would be

funded from Scotland's own resources with companies operating north of the border having to return their profits for taxation in Scotland.

Mr Stevenson's suggestion could not come at a more difficult time for Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who already faces the risk of a revolt at the Scottish party conference in Perth next month over the government's abolition of the poll tax. With Margaret Thatcher having been replaced with John Major, party moderates believe their position has been strengthened which has given them the confidence to oppose official party policy.

During visits to Scotland earlier this year, Mr Major reiterated the party's opposition to any form of devolution involving a tax raising assembly. There is, however, a belief that he might become more amenable to the issue, particularly if Scottish Tories again lose heavily at the general election.

Mr Stevenson, former leader of the Tory group on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and prospective parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh South, explained his plan for a Scottish parliament in a speech at Heriot Watt university. He said that, with the government likely to adopt single tier councils, the Conservatives had the opportunity to support a directly elected assembly.

"Scottish Conservatives stand for a truly United Kingdom, in which every part can play its role in one allegiance. Nevertheless, we must admit we have been wrong to shut our ears to demands from Scotland for more self government," he said. "Producing a workable scheme for devolution is an essential task and one which could do much to preserve the future of the union."

● Dick Douglas, MP for Dumfriesshire, who defected from Labour to the Scottish National Party last year, said yesterday that he would stand against Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, in his Glasgow Garscaddon constituency, at the next election.

Orkney to reinstate suspended reporter

ORKNEY council last night agreed to reinstate Katherine Kemp, the reporter to the islands' children's panel who was suspended on full pay more than a year ago (Kerry Gill writes).

Her suspension followed anonymous criticisms to the local newspaper about the running of the Camoran children's home in Kirkwall, the islands' main town.

Earlier this week, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, rejected an application by the council to dismiss Mrs Kemp. After examining submissions by the council and Mrs Kemp, Mr Lang said that the council had not made a sufficient case to justify her dismissal.

Nick Clayton, the council's spokesman, said: "She will recommence her duties as soon as new conditions of service have been agreed in consultation with representatives of the Scottish Office, as recommended by the secretary of state." He added that Mrs Kemp would have responsibility for all new cases.

After Mrs Kemp's suspension, the council appointed Gordon Sloan, from Strathclyde, as interim reporter. Mr Sloan was severely criticised over the panel's handling of the case involving the nine Orkney children taken into care in February after allegations of ritual sexual abuse.

Sheriff David Kelbie strongly criticised procedures by the panel and social workers at a hearing into the evidence. The children were returned to their families after five weeks in care.

Mrs Kemp said: "I have been completely vindicated and I would like now to start running a children's hearing system that Orkney can be proud of."

Last week, Mr Lang announced that a full judicial enquiry would be held into the Orkney affair.



Lang: already facing risk of revolt at party conference

Forensic director justifies charges

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE charging system for forensic science services may hamper some minor criminal investigations, but will offer taxpayers better value for money, Janet Thompson, director of the Forensic Science Service, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the official launch of the service as an executive agency, Dr Thompson said: "It is perfectly possible that in the past we did some work which was not very useful such as spending £1,000 in the lab working on a £25 criminal damage case. But it didn't happen very often. Because we now know precisely what our costs are and have an even better grasp of the police's needs, we will be offering much better value for money."

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From today the six Home Office forensic science laboratories in England and Wales will be run at arm's length from Whitehall by an executive agency. Ministers claim the move will unshackle the service, making it more cost-efficient. However, for some of the 400 scientists who help to solve crimes by analysing

blood, alcohol and other samples, the celebratory launch will ring hollow.

They believe the result will simply be a further lowering in clear-up rates and yet greater despondency within the service. Many police officers are only slightly less pessimistic.

Under the new regime, the service will have a duty to charge for its services case-by-case and on strictly commercial lines. This is expected to lead to a big increase in costs for many police forces, though some smaller, rural constabularies may find themselves in pocket.

The Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, which represents most of the scientists, said Home Office forensic ministers were being over-simplistic in the way they were seeking to impose a "free-market" approach on the service.

Fears that the changes would prompt police to reduce the number of samples they sent were endorsed by David Owen, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers. "Some forces are simply not going to have the resources to maintain their current investigative workloads," he said.

He expected the cost of forensic services to his north Wales force to rise to £400,000 this year, almost double the figure for 1988-9. Several forces, including Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Wales and West Midlands, face rises of more than 50 per cent.



Star appeal: photographers flocked towards Marilyn Monroe look-alike Pauline Bailey in one of the star's swimsuits, which sold for £13,200 yesterday, while Sara Lee modelled a Madonna outfit which failed to sell

Monroe's £13,200 swimsuit washes Madonna away

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A SWIMSUIT once generously occupied by Marilyn Monroe was sold for £13,200 (three times estimate), as she maintained her place as the most desirable film memorabilia subject at Christie's, South Kensington yesterday. The living legend, Madonna, was shunned when a gold lurex top with alluring designer holes at the shoulders and elbows failed to attract interest.

Monroe's swimsuit was bought by David Gainsborough Roberts, of Jersey, who already owns three of her costumes. He plans to place the suit in his private museum alongside Hitler's wallet, Al Capone's cigarette lighter and Bonnie and Clyde's sawn-off shotgun.

The one-piece swimsuit in black cotton has not actually appeared on the screen. It was used for publicity shots for the film *There's no Business like Showbusiness* in 1954.

Beatles memorabilia also sold strongly, although at a lower price range of £1,000 to £2,000, while a leather jacket used in a George Michael video, bearing the slogan "Rockers and Re-

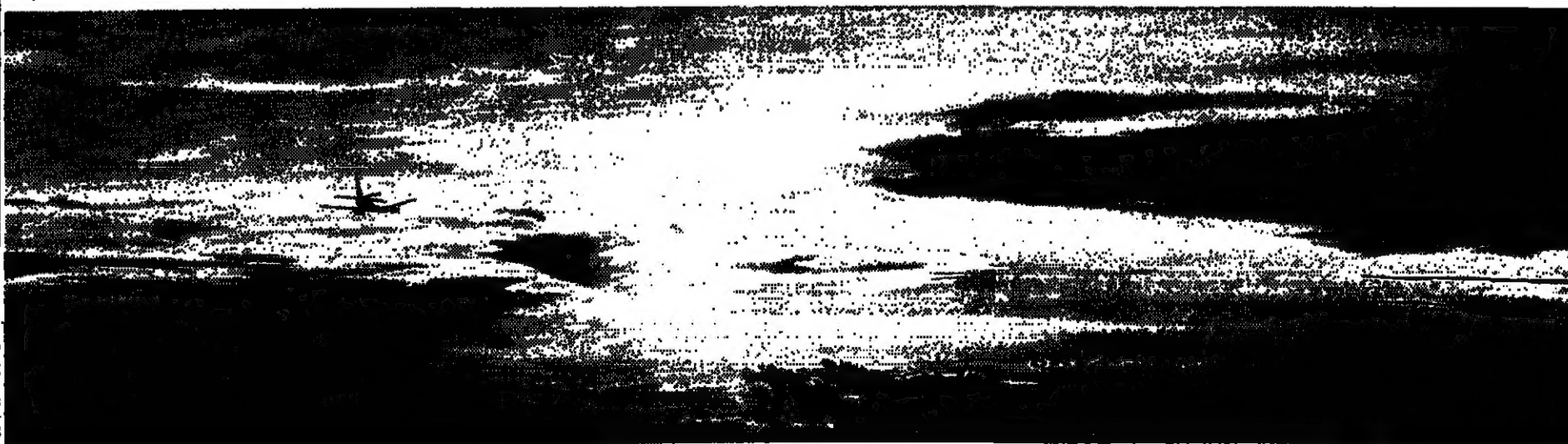
venge", went for £1,760.

□ Prospects for the London Impressionist season looked brighter yesterday when Sotheby's announced that it would be auctioning 13 Impressionist paintings and drawings from the Chester Beatty collection on June 25.

The works, by artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas and Renoir, along with fourteen 20th century works, are tentatively estimated at £12 million. They are the final group of works from the estate of the American-born mining magnate who lived in London from 1911 until his death in 1968, and follow the dispersal of much of Beatty's collection, which reached a climax with the auction, at Christie's in 1986, of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* for the world record price of £24 million.

□ Buyers with £55 million and a taste for asymmetry and organic form, have a chance to buy the Casa Batlló, an 1870s apartment block in Barcelona — one of the last two domestic commissions by Antoni Gaudí, the celebrated Catalan architect. It is being offered by Sotheby's.

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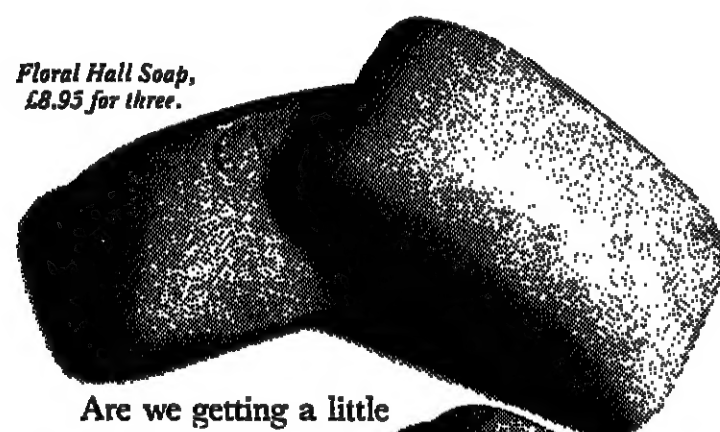
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And while we accept that many of our loyal customers will have never been below stairs as it were, at least on their first visit they will be greeted by some of the finest merchandise in the world.

In Stationery and Pens, for instance, there are address, telephone and visitors books covered in a variety of beautifully marbled papers.

And for those who still believe in the art of letter writing, our Personal Stationery Department has a special offer: 100 matching envelopes free with every 250 printed single sheets of writing paper. While nearby, you'll find greetings cards for every conceivable occasion.

The spacious new area also allows us to offer probably the biggest

Travelling
Domino Set, priced
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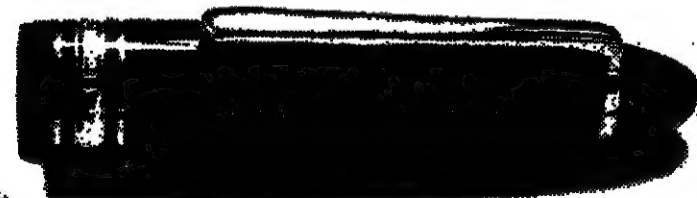


collection of writing instruments in London. These include the latest pens from Mont Blanc, exquisite hand-lacquered pen and pencil sets by Waterman, along with pens that are mightier than any sword by Parker, Sheaffer, Lamy, Cross and many other illustrious names.

Also downstairs, you will find a brand new department called Executive Leather and Games.

Here, the dynamic, thrusting executive will be able to purchase brief cases, shoe shine sets and toilet bags, all hand-crafted in finest quality leather. There's a traditional gentleman's shaving kit with brush, razor, brass bowl and detachable mirror in printed calf leather, priced £225.

Or a leather Document Case complete with note paper engraved with your own personal monogram might stir things up nicely at the next

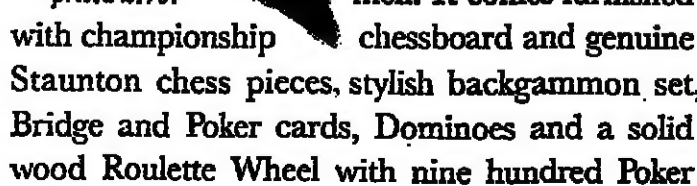


board meeting. And at the end of those 14 hour days, why not amuse yourself with one of the many grown up games from the same department.

How about a beautifully presented chess or backgammon set? Or a bridge computer? Meanwhile, for those with an all-together more sociable disposition, we can thoroughly recommend the Harrods Games Table.

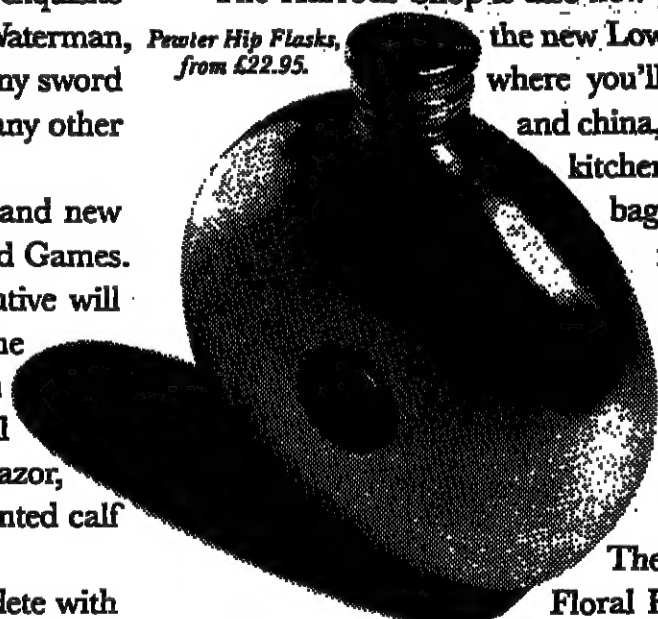
This magnificent solid mahogany table is inlaid in hand-tooled leather by English craftsmen. It comes furnished with championship chessboard and genuine Staunton chess pieces, stylish backgammon set, Bridge and Poker cards, Dominoes and a solid wood Roulette Wheel with nine hundred Poker

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bags along with our new Floral Hall bathcare range which includes soaps, creams and bath gel all in distinctive Harrods designs. There's also a special Floral Hall introductory offer: purchase the Eau de Toilette and any other product from the range and you'll receive a 100g Floral Hall soap free.



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So in the immortal words of that well-known television game show presenter perhaps you might like to descend upon it very soon.

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Conse
pull
Lab
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By David G. Brown, for
THE Conservatives
pulled three points clear
Labour in 50 marginal seats
that the party must win to
in power after the next
poll, according to an opinion
poll published today.
The poll, published by the
SNOP survey for the
Conservative Campaign
gives the Tories a four-point
lead over Labour in
Thursday's local elections.
Polls last weekend put
our and the Tories at 40
cent each. According to
however, 41 per cent of
in the margins would
vote Conservative in a
election. According to
survey, Labour's share of
vote would remain unchanged
at 40 per cent and the
Democrats would get 14
cent, a big improvement
their position. The 15
cent swing to the Tories
however, not enough to
sure the party a work
majority in the Commons.
Asked about their
intentions in the
elections on Thursday, 41
cent of the 971 electors in
50 most marginal Tory
questioned, said that
would support the Tories
37 per cent said that
would support the
Democrats, confirming
predictions that the party
better in the council
elections.

Countdown to Plump for Ma

AN AIR of puzzlement
settled yesterday over
polling stations in
Isle of Man, as it
during recent elections.
Voters turned out to
their middle ranks of
government and
one more with the
method of election
single transferable
(STV) with "plumping".
The plump, as it is
to the architects of the
electoral system, was
on to STV at the last
election and replaced
simple method of
passing the post. The
to mollify the Manx
of appearing to vote
measures which attract
disapproval.

Hence the House of
the oldest continuous
liament in the world,
been unable to bring
legalise homosexuality.
twelve consenting men
spite of pressure from
minister, the Europe
Court of Human Rights
and, paradoxically, the
that this is the Isle of
The STV requires
to give an ordered
ference for the candidate
which in a relatively
community could
putting a mark against
name of someone
to be beyond the
Mike Savage, chief
live in the department
local government and

COLD CAT

Breathe more easily
more naturally with
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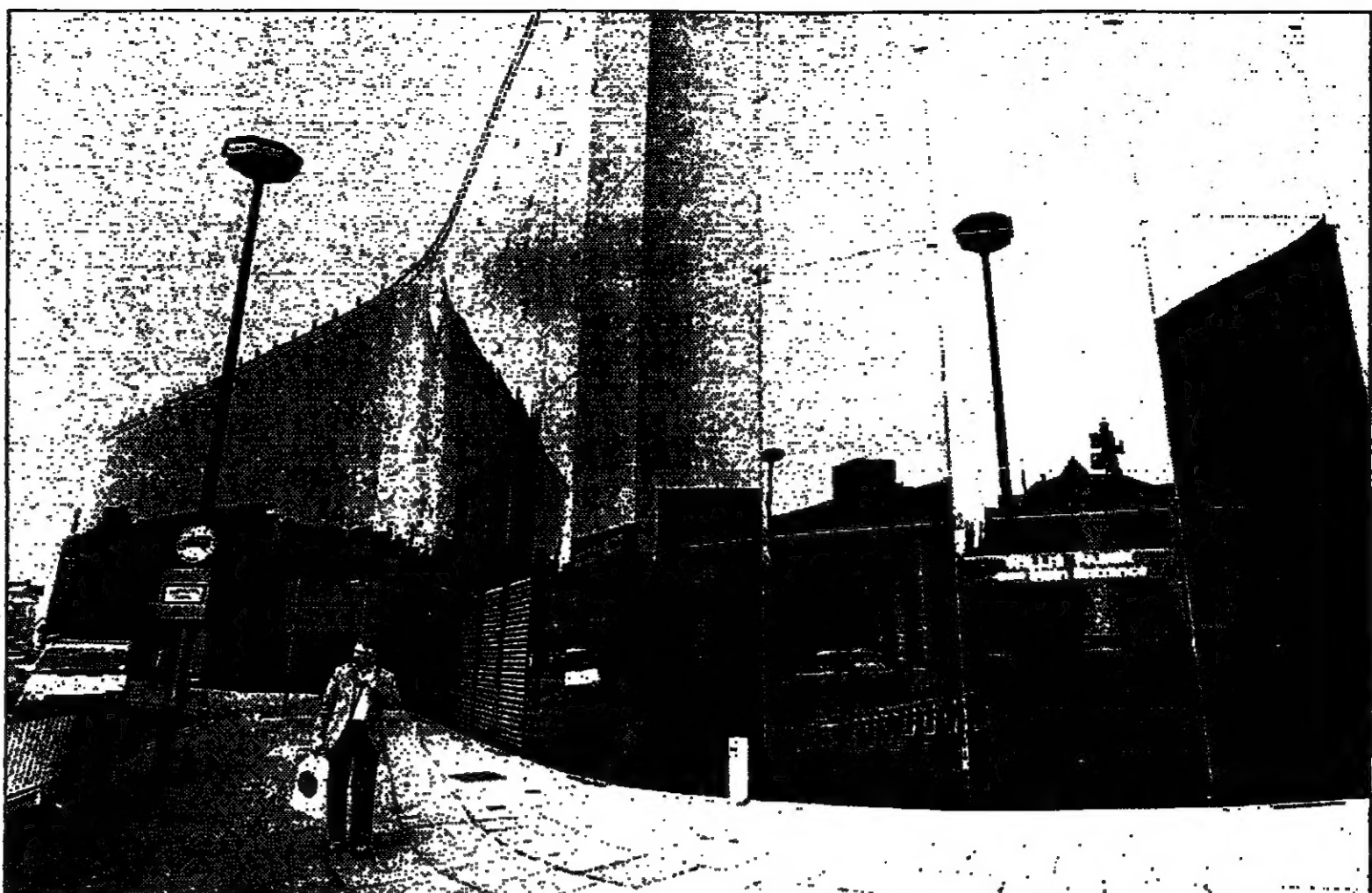
A few drops of natural
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gives immediate relief.

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blend of six natural
plant oils and menthol. For
all the family, including
children. It's not greasy,
doesn't stain, it's gentle and
nasal passages, nor drowsy.
Olbas Pastilles too, the
throats.

Conservatives pull clear of Labour in 50 marginals

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives have pulled three points clear of Labour in 50 marginal seats that the party must win to stay in power after the next election, according to an opinion poll published today. The NOP survey for the *Local Government Chronicle* also gives the Tories a four-point lead over Labour in next Thursday's local elections. Polls last weekend put Labour and the Tories at 40 per cent each. According to NOP, however, 43 per cent of voters in the marginals would now vote Conservative in a general election. According to the survey, Labour's share of the vote would remain unchanged at 40 per cent and the Liberal Democrats would get 14 per cent, a big improvement in their position. The 3.5 per cent swing to the Tories is, however, not enough to ensure the party a working majority in the Commons. Asked about their voting intentions in the municipal elections on Thursday, 41 per cent of the 971 electors in the 50 most marginal Tory seats questioned said that they would support the Tories and 37 per cent Labour. A further 19 per cent said that they would support the Liberal Democrats, confirming predictions that the party will do better in the council elections than in a general election. The improvement in Conservative fortunes is more dramatic when compared to a similar NOP poll in the same seats this time last year when the poll tax had been introduced. Then, 36 per cent of voters supported Labour, 30 per cent the Conservatives and 8 per cent the Liberal Democrats. The latest survey was held on April 17, six days before the announcement of the council tax to replace the community charge but after the government had announced that the poll tax was to be abolished. Asked how they thought local government should raise income, 43 per cent favoured Labour's plan for a reformed rating system and 24 per cent the Liberal Democrats' local income tax. Only 15 per cent supported a property and personal tax such as the government's proposed council tax. Conservative Central Office declined to comment but David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that it did not bear out Labour's canvassing returns. "It is good to see that a third of Tory voters support our alternative," he added. Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said that the poll confirmed his party's strength.



Reflected glory: The Willis Faber headquarters in Ipswich, Suffolk, which achieved a place in the record books yesterday as the first building of the Severities to be listed as of architectural and historic

interest. Its designation is all the more remarkable in that it has been given grade one status, a distinction usually reserved for the masterpieces of earlier centuries. The only other post-war buildings to be

similarly classified are Coventry cathedral and the Festival Hall. Until yesterday the most recent buildings to be listed were the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington and The Economist offices in

St James's Street, City of London, which are both classed as grade two starred. The Ipswich building was designed for Willis, Faber and Dumas, insurance brokers, by Sir Norman Foster.

Heritage group lists its successes

By JOHN YOUNG

MODERN architecture and planning "is producing an environment that is not only a visual disgrace, but is becoming an economic and ecological nonsense as well".

Those words appeared in the first report by the campaigning conservation group, Save Britain's Heritage, published in the *Architects' Journal* in December 1975. Since then the group, has become the most effective lobbying group in its field.

The group dates its inception from *The Destruction of the Country House*, the exhibition staged by Sir Roy Strong in 1974. It adopted the cause not only of country houses, but of churches, urban terraces, cottages, hospitals, factories, stations, public houses, and gardens.

In the hope of enlisting support, it is publishing a book next week listing its achievements and offering advice on practical steps to preserve our heritage. *Action Guide*, published by Collins and Brown at £6.99, will be available in bookshops or direct from SAVE, 68 Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3HX, £7.50.

Countdown to the local elections Plumping puzzle for Manx voters

AN AIR of puzzlement settled yesterday around polling stations in Douglas, Isle of Man, as it often has during recent elections. Voters turned out to choose their middle ranks of local government and grapple once more with the arcane method of selection by the single transferable vote (STV) with "plumping".

The plump, as it is known to the architects of the Manx electoral system, was grafted on to STV at the last general election and replaced the simple method of appointing the first candidate to pass the post. The aim was to mollify the Manx dislike of appearing to vote for measures which attract public disapproval.

Hence the House of Keys, the oldest continuous parliament in the world, has been unable to bring itself to legalise homosexuality between consenting men in spite of pressure from Westminster, the European Court of Human Rights and, paradoxically, the fact that this is the Isle of Man.

The STV requires electors to give an ordered preference for the candidates, which in a relatively small community could mean putting a mark against the name of someone considered to be beyond the pale. Mike Savage, chief executive in the department of local government and the

Four names, three vacancies and a "plump" can be a problem, writes Ronald Faux

environment, said: "They often put it this way: 'I could put Margaret Thatcher first and Neil Kinnock second but never Screaming Lord Sutch third. I simply would not want to vote for him.'"

"Voters would not want to acknowledge that Screaming Lord Sutch, or whoever, had a place in the scheme of things." As a result, STV was extended to allow voters to "plump" for one candidate with a cross. That is accepted by the returning officer as a valid preference.

Charles "Buster" Lewin, clerk to the Braddon Commissioners, said: "It is a hybrid STV system that is halfway to nowhere. People do not understand what to do when they are confronted with four names for three vacancies and the chance to plump. A blank look comes over them as they go into the voting booth."

That may not help the fact that Manx elections for the town, district, village and parish councils attract so few voters or candidates. "The system here is quite unlike that on the mainland," Mr Lewin said. "There are no party politics."



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Promising drug test results offer hope to Alzheimer patients

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG used experimentally to treat Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of senile dementia, has improved the memory and mental abilities of some sufferers, British researchers report today.

The drug could become the first effective treatment for the disease if further studies support its early promise. A study in *The Lancet* today by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry in south-east London shows that the drug, called tacrine, produced significant symptomatic improvement in 45 per cent of patients with mild to moderate forms of the condition.

The husband of one patient given the drug for three months told the researchers that his elderly wife was now enjoying her life "rather than existing on the edge of oblivion". Two years earlier, she had been withdrawn, seldom smiled, could not tell the time, and did not know what day it was. She now woke up every morning, knowing the day of the week, the husband said. Raymond Levy, professor of old-age psychiatry, who led

the study, said yesterday: "The drug represents an important first step in the symptomatic treatment of this disease."

Alzheimer's is the most common progressive brain disorder. Sufferers gradually lose memory and personality, and become increasingly confused.

The trial involved 89 patients who were given a daily dose either of the drug or a placebo. Nineteen of the patients were withdrawn from the study because of side-effects, and five others withdrew for other reasons, leaving 65 who completed the treatment.

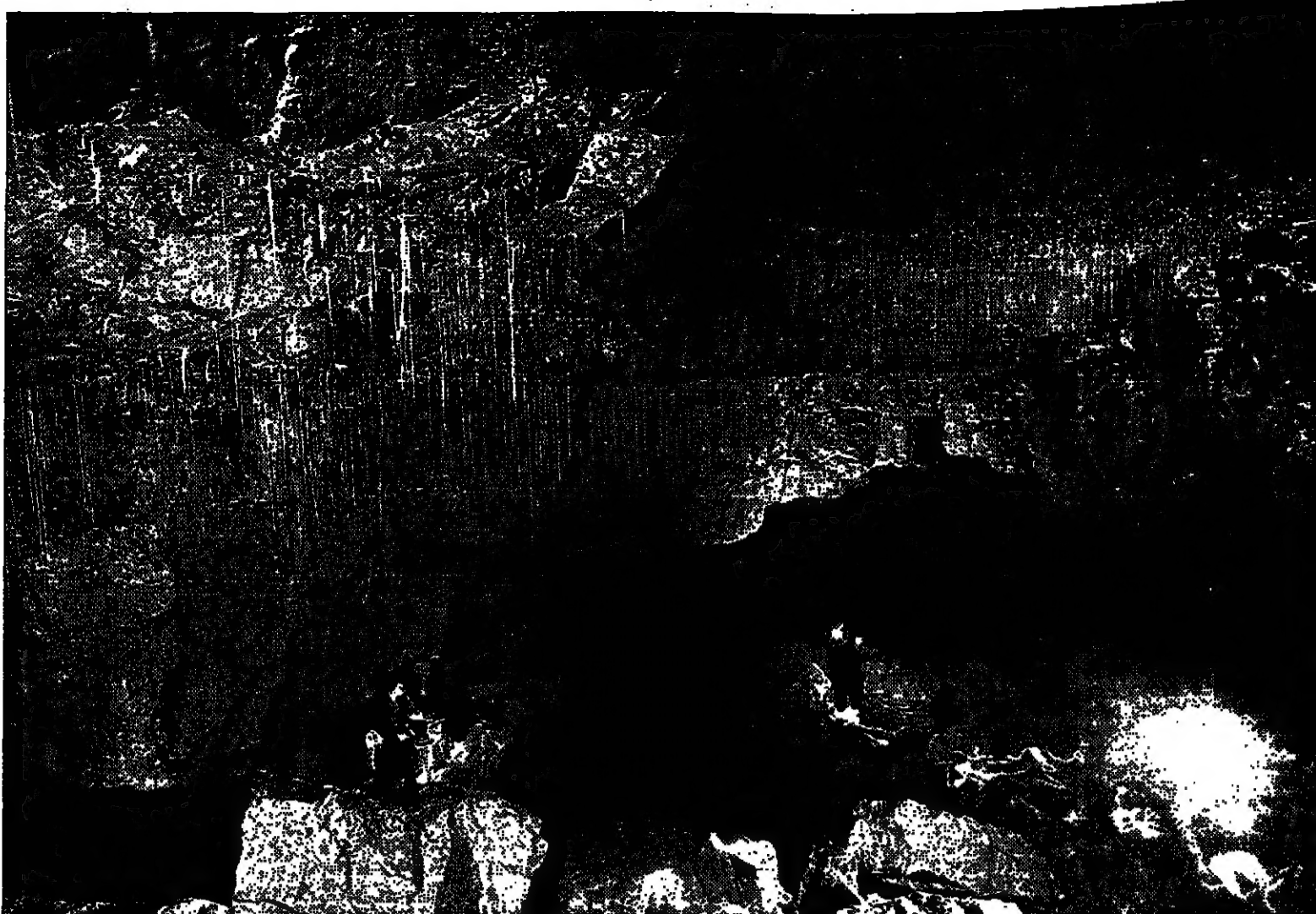
They were then given a series of tests to judge their memory and mental abilities. The tests showed that 45 per cent of those given tacrine had a significant improvement, compared to 11 per cent in the placebo group. The side-effects included early signs of liver damage and nausea. The benefits were most evident in patients' perceptual and attentional functions, but there were some improvements in short-term memory. The pa-

tients' abilities to do everyday things were not enhanced.

"The drug can improve symptoms perhaps for a year or two in some of the patients, but eventually it is likely that these patients will deteriorate. We do not expect tacrine to affect the basic disease process," Professor Levy said.

"There is no effective treatment, and although tacrine is by no means the complete answer, it is an important step forward, and I would expect to see further advances in the next few years. Reversing Alzheimer's disease is not out of the question, but it is going to be very difficult."

Tacrine is not a new drug. It was developed more than 30 years ago to play a role in anaesthesia, and was used to overcome the effects of morphine, but has fallen into disuse. The drug was supplied to the researchers by Shire Pharmaceuticals, a British company which subsequently sold its interest in it to Park-Davis, an American firm with a subsidiary in Eastleigh, Hampshire. A trial of the drug among American patients has just been completed.



Underworld figures: Britain's largest accessible cavern, the Battlefield chamber at Ingleton, North Yorkshire, which is to be open to the public on May 1 after work costing £170,000. The cave, part of the four-mile White Scar cave

system, had been accessible only to pot-holers since its discovery in 1974 (Nigel Burnham writes). White Scar Caves Ltd, the company which operates the system, has bored a 61-metre tunnel, allowing walkers to reach the chamber from

the end of an existing show cave a quarter of a mile away. Before reaching the 300ft long, 90ft wide and 60ft high Battlefield chamber, visitors will have a clear view of a stream below through metal walkway grilles. In the chamber they will

find straw stalactites and cracked mudflows so far seen by fewer than 100 pot-holers who have reached the chamber by squeezing through a narrow, sometimes flooded, passage. The round trip of almost a mile will take about an hour.

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Animators draw children to Bard

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IF EDUCATIONISTS are denying many British schoolchildren the chance to study Shakespeare, Welsh animators are trying to make up for the omission with an animated series of the Bard's plays for the BBC.

As the Prince of Wales criticised Shakespeare's exclusion from some curricula, S4C, the Welsh television channel, was taking orders at the international MIP TV programme market in Cannes for the new series, to be screened in the autumn. *Shakespeare - The Animated Tales*, a £3.5 million project to produce six plays, is designed to capture the imagination of young children and teenagers.

Christopher Grace, head of animation at S4C, said: "Our ideas have coincided with those of the prince. We've been getting the same feedback - that kids are finding the language difficult and inaccessible. Only by turning Shakespeare into a contemporary and exciting art form will millions of children around the world become interested in it."

The half-hour adaptations, which will use original text, have been written by Leon Garfield, the children's author and Shakespearean scholar. He has been working closely with Birmingham university's Shakespeare institute to ensure the animated versions of the condensed classics maintain the spirit and integrity of the original plays.

Stanley Wells, professor of Shakespeare studies at the university and director of its Shakespeare institute, who shared the platform with the prince at his lecture in Stratford-upon-Avon on Monday, is the principal adviser to the television

project. The animation breaks all cartoon clichés. A 60-second version of the opening scene of *Macbeth* had enough American and German buyers knocking at S4C's door as long ago as last September to encourage the channel to start production on five more - *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*.

The quality of the animation, created by Soyuzmultfilm, the Soviet equivalent



Child's play: a witch in the cartoon *Macbeth*

of Walt Disney and the series's 50 per cent equity partner, make Disney's *Fantasia* look rather pedestrian by comparison. The music will be performed by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

The ambitious international co-production also involves BBC Wales, Home Box Office, the US cable company, HIT Communications, the UK family programming distributor and Fujisankei, the Japanese media group. S4C and its partners have now commissioned a second series of seven more Shakespearean plays.

Guinness ruling later

Three appeal court judges yesterday reserved judgment on an appeal from Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness group chairman, against his conviction and five-year jail sentence for his part in the takeover battle for control of Distillers in 1987.

Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Ognall are expected to deliver their findings in a fortnight. They will also rule on appeals by the Gerald Ronson, head of the Heron Group, who was jailed for a year and fined £5 million, and the stockbroker Anthony Parnes, jailed for 30 months.

Flying again

Squadron Leader John Mardon, who had a heart and lung transplant eight months ago, begins flying Jaguar operational jets again today at RAF Coltishall, Norfolk.

Crash kills four

Four people died when their car crashed into a tree and burst into flames at Howe Green, Chelmsford, Essex.

Grenade raider

A man wearing a gas mask and apparently carrying a hand grenade robbed a bank in Weyhill, Hampshire.

Library arson

Petrol bombers destroyed 20,000 books in a £1 million attack on the children's section of Birmingham central library.

Jailed for killing

Raymond Goodchild, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, who punched a man in an argument over a parking space, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court for two years for manslaughter.

Claim dropped

Dallas Bonnell, a model, withdrew her £100,000 High Court medical negligence claim over an alleged failed abortion.

Back from Gulf

The minehunters Atherstone, Hurworth and Cattistock have returned to Portsmouth after six months in the Gulf.

Drugs seized

Drugs worth £200,000 were seized from a Nigerian cargo ship which docked at Dublin.

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200,000 jobs lost in first quarter, says Labour study

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200,000 job losses, the highest quarterly figure since the early Eighties, were recorded during the first three months of the year, according to a Labour survey, last night that the party claimed presented a frightening picture of a deepening recession.

Further indications that the recession is biting hardest in the Conservative heartlands came with the survey's finding that nearly 40,000 of the job losses occurred in the South-east.

The survey, conducted by Henry McLeish, a shadow employment minister, claimed that the trickle of losses in the third and fourth quarters of last year had turned to a flood. Mr McLeish said that it reinforced predictions that unemployment could exceed 2.5 million by the autumn and rise to three million next year.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said that Labour calculated that 100,000 jobs in manufacturing had been lost in the past six months, bringing the total to more than two million under Conservative governments since 1979.

Today the Labour leadership will maintain its assault

on the government when John Smith, the shadow chancellor, alleges that its goal of reducing income tax to 20p would cost £29 billion in lost tax revenue. Mr Smith is expected to say in a lecture at Stirling university that there is no plausible economic or social justification for such a giveaway. He would allege that such a large cut would run serious risks with inflation.

The jobs survey is based on an analysis of announcements of job losses and jobs at risk carried in regional and national newspapers in the first quarter of this year. Transport, telecommunications and energy jobs accounted for 34 per cent of the losses.

The survey said that job losses announced in the first quarter of this year were 232 per cent higher than those recorded in the previous quarter, and the number of jobs at risk was estimated to stand at a million. It added: "The very high level of jobs at risk revealed by our survey contradicts the rather optimistic views of the economy now being put forward by the government who increasingly talk of the recession bottoming out and of economic growth due to return in the second half of the year."



McLeish: slump hitting hardest in Tory heartlands

"As investment falls, bankruptcies increase, productivity declines, unit costs increase, vacancies slump, unemployment rises, job losses accelerate and employment growth is reversed against a background of intensifying international competition; the government faces a deepening economic and political crisis."

The survey emphasised the scale of job losses in the Southeast and said that the impact of the recession on sectors such as defence and financial services would ensure a prominent role for the South in the continuing political battle over jobs. It added that, unlike the recession of the early Eighties, when there was a shake-out of jobs in the traditional areas of productive industry, the present slump was exposing chronic structural weaknesses in key sectors that previously were unaffected.

Mr Brown said that the regional breakdown of manufacturing employment showed that it had fallen by 33 per cent in the North, 34 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside, 35 per cent in the Southeast and 38 per cent in the West Midlands.

Mackay approves virgin births

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE Lord Chancellor gave his legal blessing yesterday to "virgin births" in which women opt for artificial insemination but decide never to have a male partner.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that there was nothing in embryology legislation passed last year to prevent an unmarried woman without a partner from receiving treatment to enable her to carry a child. He made clear, however, that prospective mothers should not be treated by clinics unless account had been taken of the welfare of the child including the child's need for a father.

He also told peers during report stage of the Child Support bill that donors of sperm used to conceive children in this way would not be pursued under a bill designed to make errant fathers responsible for supporting their children. "It would be wrong for somebody who had in a public-spirited act donated sperm on the understanding that he would not have any parental status of liability to be forced to maintain a child born as a result."

He was speaking in the Lords after hearing concern by Lord Stoddart of Swinton, the Labour peer, that the mothers involved would not be able to maintain their children and that in many cases the whole cost would fall on the taxpayer.

Heath's lavish praise of Major upsets right

By ROBBY OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IN A move likely to intensify the prime minister's problems with right wingers and the Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative party, Edward Heath bestowed lavish praise on John Major's European policies yesterday, suggesting that he represented a clean break with the Thatcher years.

Mr Major's initial presentation of the Kurdish safe havens plan to European Community leaders rather than to America, Mr Heath said, was an example of how a common European foreign policy should work.

The former prime minister told the closing dinner of the "Future of Europe" conference of the British Atlantic Group of Young Politicians last night: "I made no secret of the fact that I had been frustrated by the approach of the former British government towards the European Community over the last 12 years. However, the election of John Major as the leader of the Conservative party last November has greatly improved the position. His impact on Britain's attitude to the European Community has been formidable."

Mr Heath praised the prime minister's personal success as Chancellor of the Exchequer in winning the political argument within the cabinet for British entry to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system, saying



Heath: Major is clean break with Thatcherism

that his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, no friend of Mr Heath, had been trying for years to secure the move without success. He added: "Now as prime minister John Major is taking dramatic steps to re-establish Britain at the forefront of the development of the Community. To hear John Major say [in Bonn earlier this year] that he wants Britain to be at the heart of Europe was truly welcome."

The prime minister's personal launching of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, Mr Heath said, was a clear sign that Britain was willing and ready to take substantive steps towards a more integrated Europe.

Mr Heath, who advised those in the audience at a recent Tory party conference not to applaud him because it might annoy their neighbours, knows that his commendation is a mixed blessing. And there may have been an element of wishful thinking in his speech: Mr Major remains opposed, as Margaret Thatcher was, to a single European currency and to an independent European central bank, while Mr Heath last night said that both were only a matter of time.

He managed a grudging reference to Mr Major's hard-earned plan, saying: "Should we have to go through the cumbersome process of having a common currency alongside the national currency for a while to satisfy political niceties, so be it."

As well as backing a common European foreign policy, Mr Heath said: "It seems absurd to argue that the European Community should remain outside a common defence policy". Some European governments favoured working through the Western European Union for such a policy, so that when its treaty expires in 1998 it would become incorporated in the Community, but Mr Heath said that he favoured the creation of a new institution.

Building society accused

The management of a building society was accused during prime minister's questions of intimidating its staff after they had voted to join a trade union. Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, said that in a secret ballot employees at the North of England Building Society voted by 257 votes to 81 to join the Banking and Finance Union. In response, the management had embarked on the programme of intimidation designed to get employees to resign.

Mr Major replied that if the facts were as Mr Mullin had stated, both sides should be bound by the agreement.

Car charge

The government is asking more than 50 organisations and employers for their views on the best way of collecting the new national insurance charge on employers who provide company cars and fuel for employees' private use.

Spring recess

The Commons will rise for the spring recess on Thursday May 23 until Monday June 3. Parliament will not sit on May 6, the May Day holiday.

Transplants



The prime minister said at question time that he hoped that organ transplants would be among the topics covered during his weekend meeting with health professionals at Chequers. Sir Michael McNair-Wilson (above), Tory MP for Newbury, had told him that 5,000 people were awaiting transplants and the number of organ donations for transplants needed to double.

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Venue hunt proves first obstacle in way of Ulster talks

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and Irish ministers meet today for the last meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference before the opening of talks next week on the political future of Northern Ireland.

Discussions are continuing between officials from both governments on the venue for the second strand of the negotiations which will involve the Irish Republic in talks with politicians from North-

ern Ireland about links between the two parts of the island.

Finding a place for the second stage of the talks that takes account of the political sensitivities of the various delegations is likely to prove a taxing problem. Unionist politicians are reluctant to go to Dublin and, for equally symbolic reasons, the Irish Republic's government is unlikely to want the talks to be held at Stormont on the outskirts of Belfast. If the talks are not held at Stormont, ministers need to consider practicalities including security and the need to install facilities for the delegations and the media.

Peter Brooke, secretary of state for Northern Ireland, will hold a series of talks with representatives from the North's political parties at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The outline of an agenda will be discussed as well as matters such as the make-up of each party's delegation of ten members, the facilities with which they will be provided and the financial allowances they will receive.

The first plenary session at which the two Unionist parties, the Social Democratic and Labour party, the Alliance party and the government begin the search for a devolved administration for the province is likely to be on either May 7 or 8.

The talks are scheduled to be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, with all three stages of the initiative expected to conclude by the middle of July. Mr Brooke will head the British delegation, with the assistance of Dr Brian Mahoney, the Northern Ireland minister of state.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: School teachers' pay and conditions (No 2) bill, second reading.
Tuesday: Finance bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on broadcasting the Commons. Debate on reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the health service commissioner.
Thursday: Debate on the RAF.
Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Monday: Child support bill, report, second day.
Tuesday: War crimes bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on education and vocational training.
Thursday: Road traffic bill, committee.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Radioactive material (road transport) bill, pig husbandry bill, and registered homes (amendment) bill, remaining stages.

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KURDISH DEAL

Shia leaders urge rebels not to trust Saddam

By ADAM KELLIHER IN BAGHDAD AND
MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday insisted that its deal with the Kurdish rebels on autonomy had been reached in good faith. But if the agreement is to succeed, it will have to address a total lack of trust among Kurds after years of ill-fated rebellions and bloody repression.

The accord has dismayed Iraqi Shia opposition groups committed to the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein. They urged Kurdish rebels not to finalise it. The agreement could keep Saddam in power for years, they said, and enable him to commit more resources to repressing Iraq's Shi'as, according to the al-Dawa party, an influential opposition group based in Iran. "It will deal a heavy blow to the struggle to topple Saddam and he doesn't keep his promises," a party spokesman said.

Other Shia opposition groups in Iran, sympathetic to the plight of Kurdish refugees, did not openly condemn the agreement. But they expressed concern that it would lead to mounting repression of Saddam's other rivals and recalled that the Kurds were part of a 17-party alliance of anti-Saddam Iraqi groups forged last December.

Iraq's Shi'as, who comprise 55 per cent of the population, were the first to revolt against Saddam after the Gulf war, but were also the first to be crushed. When the Kurdish delegation first went to Baghdad on Saturday, Shia groups said it was a betrayal of the thousands who had lost their lives in the uprising.

Iran, although deeply opposed to the possibility of any agreement that could lead to a breakaway Kurdish state, welcomed the agreement, which it hopes will remove a million Kurdish refugees from its soil.

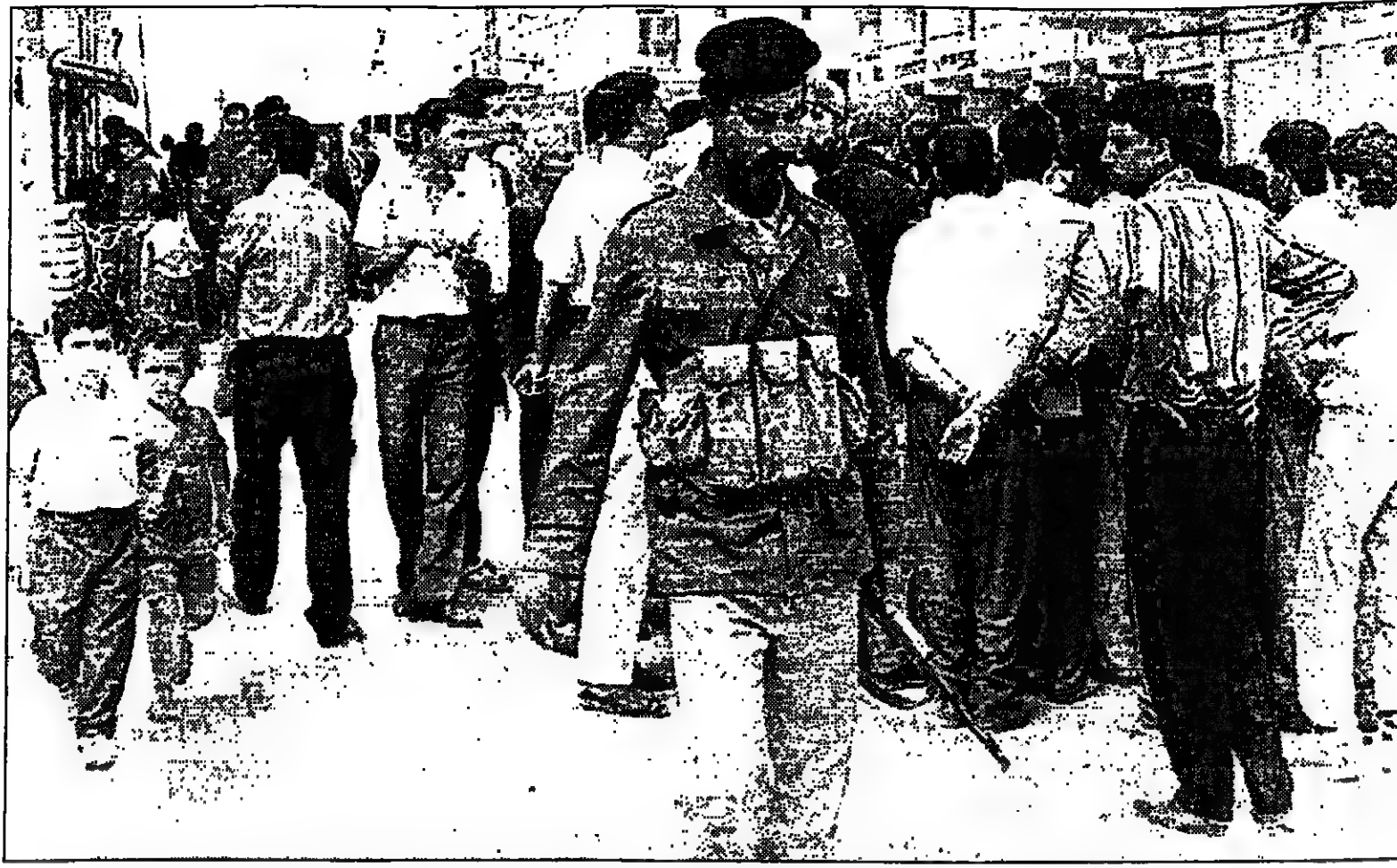
In Baghdad, the prime minister, Sadoun Hammadi, said Iraq hoped to find "an objective patriotic national solution" to the plight of the Kurds through negotiations based on a self-rule package formed more than two decades ago. He refused to elaborate on the negotiations.

Jalal al-Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said talks involving a coalition of eight groups, including his own party, had yielded broad agreement based on the March 11, 1970 autonomy proposal. He said Masoud Barzani, the leader of the other main opposition group, the Kurdistan Democratic party, also supported the proposal and would visit Baghdad next week to finalise the details.

Mr Talabani called on Kurds to return home immediately, saying: "We do not want another Armenia." He would not give any specifics about the agreement, but appeared confident of success, saying of the relationship between the government and the rebels, that "we can't topple them, but they can't crush us".

The 1970 plan granted Kurds power over their educational, economic and cultural affairs, but left Baghdad with control of foreign policy, defence, issuing currency and extracting oil from the region.

On paper, the agreement seemed liberal, but in reality many of its parts remained unimplemented, with Kurdish opposition groups wanting greater property purchasing rights and a percentage of oil revenue. They also wanted more power to appoint officials, giving no credence to an elected legislature, from which the central government a puppet executive committee.



Police presence: an armed Iraqi policeman passing a crowd in front of one of the few open shops in the border town of Zakho yesterday

AID MISSION

Hail of Kurdish bullets meets UN team

FROM ADAM KELLIHER IN BAGHDAD

ONLY poor marksmanship saved the lives of a delegation of senior UN officials, whose expedition to bridge the confidence gap between Kurds and the Iraqi government ran straight into a fusillade of bullets fired by Kurdish guerrillas.

This correspondent was among those shot at on the fact-finding mission led by Bernd Bernander, the special envoy of Prince Sadruddin Khan who is co-ordinating the UN's entire relief programme, and is the highest ranking UN official in Iraq.

A UN helicopter took the party, which included six UN officials and two Red Cross representatives, to the northern town of Sulaymaniyah, where we met the acting governor and then on Wednesday afternoon, travelled out to a point where refugees were returning. The drive took us on the road to Iran, past derelict army facilities and people scouring rub-

bish piles in search of food. The incoming road was busy with the stream of refugees, coming home by car, truck, bus, tractor and foot at a rate, officials say, is now of about 4,000 people a day.

There is an arrogant habit among Iraqis on official business to pay only derisory attention to roadblocks, and so at a military checkpoint outside Arbad village, some 60 miles from Iran, the driver of the lead car merely slowed down for the sentries, and with a wave accelerated away.

The other four cars, also government-issue sedans with no number plates, followed and we drove on through the landscape of undulating wheat fields, viewing the refugees and widespread damage caused during the rebellion.

After passing over a small rise, the lead car bearing Mr Bernander braked suddenly at the start of a bridge about 60 yards before another roadblock. We in the second car

swerved to avoid a collision.

But this was a different roadblock, manned by large bearded men with turbans, baggy trousers and guns. My driver hissed "peshmerga" but by then, the driver of the lead car had panicked and started to irrationally reverse his vehicle.

The first guard immediately fired a full clip of bullets and about three others joined in. For a ghastly 10 seconds all five cars were caught in the middle of the road, each driver struggling to turn around within the random spray of lead. In the stream that ran beneath the bridge about six other rebels were washing. They lunged for their guns and also opened fire.

All of the occupants of my car instinctively placed our heads between our knees, the driver slumping in his seat as he turned and screamed off. Amid the gunfire, one's thoughts became pretty prosaic. "Why is one's body so

large when you need it to be small? Is the flimsy metal with which American automobiles are made strong enough to stop a round from a Kalashnikov assault rifle? Sitting in this position, aren't my spine or some vital organ the most likely things to be hit? What am I doing here?"

The shooting seem to abate as we accelerated, so I peeped out the rear window, only to see an Ali Baba-like character stumble down a hillside about 40 yards away, his assault rifle blazing.

Ducking again, further bursts were heard, the rebels firing long after we were out of range, with perhaps 500 bullets unleashed during the interminable 45-second mêlée. One round passed through the rear window of the car in front, exiting through the windscreen and narrowly missing the crouched heads of the driver and two back seat occupants, Patrick Cockburn of *The Independent* news-

paper and the UN HCRs, who were both slightly wounded by flying glass.

But the rebels sensed the thrill of the hunt, and thought they had a chance to bag some Baathists. Three gunmen jumped into a Volkswagen Passat and chased us.

They shot out the tyre of one of the cars and descended on the disabled vehicle, which bore Abdul Razaq Jassani, the UNDP's representative in Baghdad, and Staffan Bodemar, a Swede representing the UNHCR. The pair jumped out and approached their would-be killers, who were immediately contrite when they realised the convoy was not a government group.

"They were very friendly," said a jubilant Mr Jassani, who soon after arrived by taxi at a military checkpoint where the aid delegation waited, incredulous that we had somehow all emerged unscathed. "They kissed me and said 'I'm sorry we're not after you'."

Archer launches refugee appeal

An appeal masterminded by Jeffrey Archer, the author, and supported by John Major, the prime minister, and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, aims to raise £10 million within four weeks for the Kurdish refugees (Alice Thomson writes).

The Simple Truth campaign is asking everyone to donate £5 towards helping the plight of the refugees and the government announced yesterday that it would double the target by giving £10 million to get the appeal launched.

The campaign has been put together in less than a week with the support of the BBC, the promoter Harvey Goldsmith and the British Red Cross making it the fastest and largest charity launched.

Donations of £5 should be sent to the Red Cross Simple Truth Appeal, Freeport, London, SW1 7YU, or deposited at any bank or post office.

Checkland plea

Michael Checkland, the director-general of the BBC, has appealed to the Iraqi government for information on three British journalists who have been missing since March 23. Nicholas and Rosanna Della Cava and Charles Maxwell were under contract to the BBC at the time.

Turkish denial

Incirlik - Turkish foreign ministry officials in Diyarbakir described as an "invention" a press report that his government was trying to harass the military and relief operation working from the newly established American base at Silopi near the Iraqi border.

Ordered out

Athens - Greece plans to expel 200 Palestinians after a 25lb bomb exploded in the port city of Piraeus, killing seven people including the Palestinian student carrying the device, sources at the public order ministry said. Four Palestinian men and a Greek woman have been arrested. (Reuters)

Iraq look to pa

THE autonomy now under final review by the Kurdish majority in the north of Iraq is the result of the extreme positions in which the Baathist government and the Kurds find themselves. Both sides hope to give them enough to rebuild their state another war. The hope that the regime of Saddam Hussein will collapse before the outbreak of such a conflict would

show to what the former lord of the "oil barrel" has been in his recent support of the uprisings in the Kurdish cities. He has lost all the military power at the end of Kuwait. He is the self-appointed of the Arabs now has American permits to use his military culture wants to spread his influence. He must end the war of attrition he state by thousands of guerrillas in the north.

For Kurdish is most immediate of the possibility of their historic city settlement after the of their population the borders of Iraq. If the camps prepared for the million Kurdish is came permanent, Baathist regime on any length of time.

Re the

Edward C. in south of Iraq

RESISTANCE in northern Iraq has learned the value of guerrilla warfare to win the battle to win the European and the States against Saddam Hussein. Interviews and the front line. Shaqlawa had plotted, they see to get reporters. Despite the a fuel, a land made available guerrillas, an AK-47 assault rifle as our escorts merge-control the Turkish front.

Driving the open country a gradually climb hills, we passed of Kurdish villa. 4,500 destroyed Baathist regu 1975. Baghdad's earth policy has lated huge areas impossible for has to defend its open countryside. Further up, a small encampment a group of around a fire, calibre artillery abandoned by government so idle, rapidly be usable for want nance, outside and timber built.

This is a con in rebel-held anti-aircraft tanks and art communication ment have behind. The many of whom military train able or un capitalise. It is



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COMMENTARY

Iraqi regime looks ready to let Kurd pact stick

By HAZR TEBMOORIAN

THE autonomy agreement now under final scrutiny in the Kurdish mountains is the result of the extremely weak positions in which the Baathist government in Baghdad and the Kurds find themselves. Both sides hope it will be a temporary arrangement, to give them enough time to rebuild their strengths for another war. The Kurds also hope that the regime of President Saddam Hussein will collapse before the time for such a conflict would arrive.

Above all, the agreement shows to what low level the former lord of "the mother of all battles" has been reduced. In his recent suppression of the uprisings in the Shia and Kurdish cities, he was able to live off the military fat he still possessed at the end of the war over Kuwait. Nevertheless, the self-appointed champion of the Arabs now has to ask for American permission every time his ministry of agriculture wants to fly a crop-spraying helicopter, and he knows he must avoid a costly war of attrition waged on his state by thousands of Kurdish guerrillas in the north.

For Kurdish leaders, the most immediate concern was the possibility of the loss of their historic cities to Arab settlement after the mass flight of their populations towards the borders of Iran and Turkey. If the camps now being prepared for the estimated two million Kurdish refugees became permanent, and if the Baathist regime survived for any length of time, the Kurd-

ish cities would have been settled with Sunni Arabs. The Kurds in Iraq would lose the most important cultural centres of their people, and their presence of some 4,000 years there might come to an end. A temporary truce with Baghdad that allowed considerable numbers of the Kurds to return to the cities was, therefore, of the utmost importance to Kurdish survival.

It remains to be seen whether the former city dwellers will return to their homes. They would only do so if, in the projected autonomous region, scouts reassured them that Iraqi security forces had left for the Arab interior of Iraq, and if they could be confident that the former forces of repression were not to make a quick comeback.

A truce with his principal victims is attractive to Saddam for reasons other than avoiding a war of attrition with them. It can be used to support his pleading to the Western allies to relax the United Nations' trade sanctions against his government.

Under the present circumstances, then, the likelihood must be that Saddam will not renege on an agreement with the Kurds, unlike in 1970 when he had money and the military support of the Soviet Union. Otherwise, great numbers of Kurds might choose to remain in refugee camps, and Kurdish leaders might decide to resume their guerrilla war on Baghdad, with the almost certain consequence of the collapse of Baathism.



Passing glory: an Iraqi boy cycling by a bullet-scarred portrait of President Saddam Hussein at a deserted Iraqi military camp in Zakho, near the border with Turkey

PEACE MISSION

Baker tries for last-minute concessions

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, returned to Israel yesterday in a last-ditch attempt to try to win concessions for his peace plan from Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister.

However, on the eve of his talks, the chances of a breakthrough in the American initiative appeared slim, primarily because of Israeli and Syrian disagreements over who should participate in the proposed talks and what they should discuss.

Mr Baker, who arrived after an unscheduled meeting in the Soviet Union with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, will meet David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, Mr Shamir and Moshe Arens, the defence minister this morning. He is due to return to Washington this weekend where he will brief President Bush on the outcome of his shuttle diplomacy in the region.

However, Israeli officials suggested yesterday that Mr Baker was unlikely to return with any big concessions from the right-wing leadership in Israel, which is expected to continue to reject United Na-

tions participation in the proposed peace talks and to object to Palestinian representatives from east Jerusalem taking part in any negotiations.

"Anyone who expected a quick result from the US initiative will be disappointed," a senior Israeli source said yesterday. "It does not mean that the initiative is over, just that this process can take a long time and we are at a particularly difficult stage at the moment. If the Americans are sincere in their search for peace, it is too early for them to give up now."

What has particularly infuriated the American side has been the Likud-led coalition government's inflexibility over the occupied territories, which Mr Shamir has said he will not give up and where new settlements have continued to be established during Mr Baker's visit.

Mr Baker has also run into problems with Syria, which has made it clear that it will enter negotiations only if Israel first agrees to hand back the Golan Heights, which it captured during the 1967 six-day war and subsequently annexed.

Rebels miss their chance

Edward German reports from Semdinli, in southeastern Turkey, on the last leg of his travels with the Kurds

RESISTANCE commanders in northern Iraq have learnt the value of Western news organisations in their battle to win the support of Europe and the United States against President Saddam Hussein, but once interviews and a tour of the front line near Shaqlawa had been completed, they seemed keen to get reporters out.

Despite the shortage of fuel, a land cruiser was made available and two guerrillas, armed with AK47 assault rifles, acted as our escorts from peshmerga-controlled Diana to the Turkish frontier.

Driving through the open country northwards, gradually climbing into the hills, we passed the rubble of Kurdish villages, among 4,500 destroyed by the Baathist regime since 1975. Baghdad's scorched earth policy has depopulated huge areas, making it impossible for the guerrillas to defend large tracts of open countryside.

Further up, we passed a small encampment where a group of men stood around a fire. Six heavy-calibre artillery pieces abandoned by retreating government forces stood idle, rapidly becoming unusable for want of maintenance, outside the mud and timber buildings.

This is a common sight in rebel-held areas where anti-aircraft guns, lorries, tanks and artillery and communications equipment have been left behind. The peshmergas, many of whom have had military training, seem unable or unwilling to capitalise. It is a short-

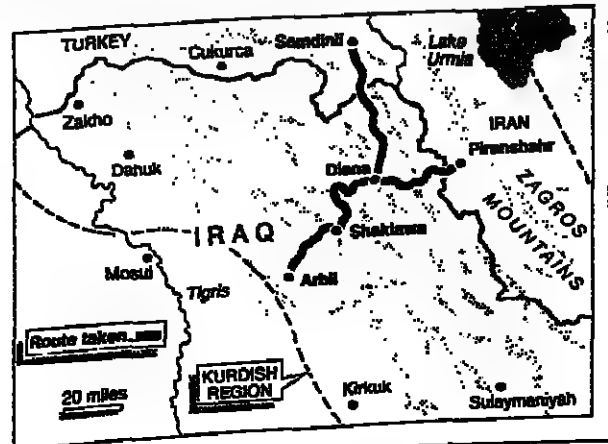
sighted policy which is reflected, too, in their destruction of captured army positions which might better be converted as points of defence.

Nearer the frontier we came across occasional groups of refugees living in abandoned buildings or camping out in makeshift tents. These people, beyond the reach of international aid organisations, had decided to move away from the cities but were not going to chance their luck in Turkey or Iran.

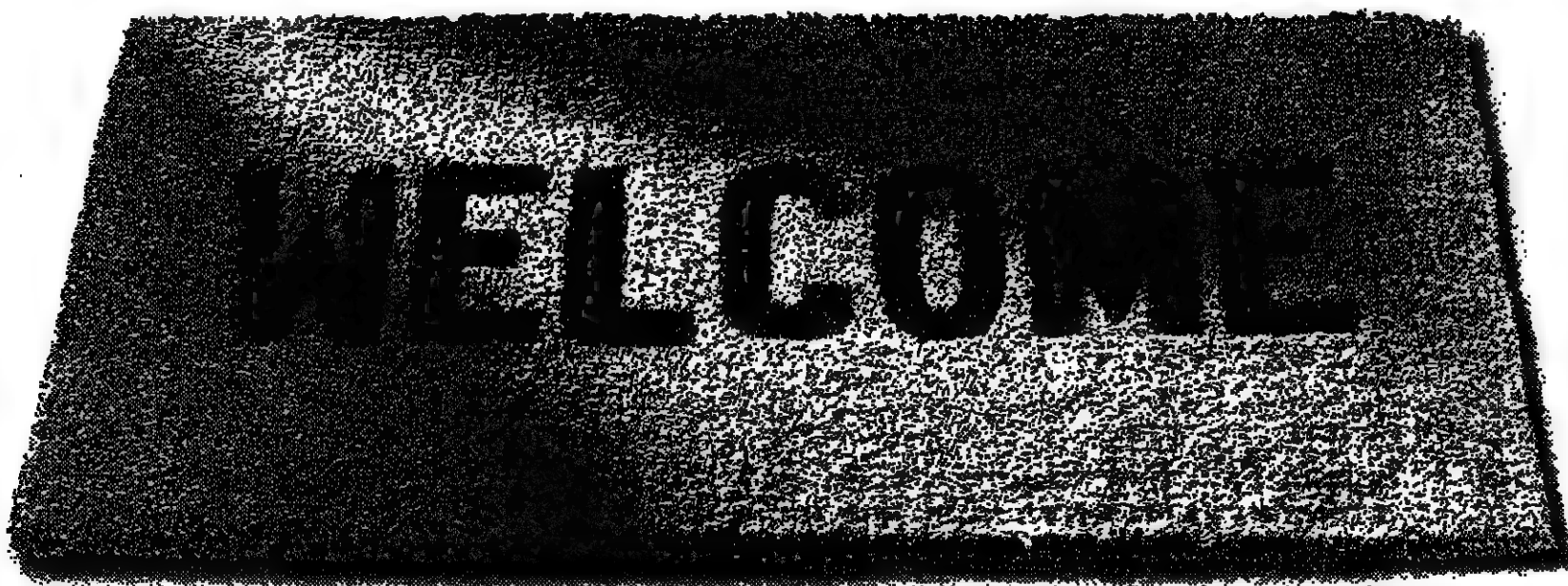
A narrow river gorge, preceded by a minefield laid during the Iran-Iraq war, brought us to the frontier, marked by a white concrete pillar. Immediately below, a Kurdish village alive with the sounds of cockerels, cows and playing children was a reminder of what life in a free Kurdistan could be like.

We then began the long journey to Semdinli. After passing through a Turkish army checkpoint, we passed a refugee camp accommodating thousands. American soldiers were helping the Turks to organise fresh water facilities. The wigan-style tents and the smoke of hundreds of fires blowing across the valley made it look like an Indian encampment, Hollywood style.

A young boy from Arbil, who had won possession of four pairs of wellingtons made in France, said there was not enough food. The Americans said they had had to break up a fight when food was being distributed from a lorry.



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Resignation threat becomes riskier ploy for Gorbachev

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE dramatic offer by President Gorbachev to resign yesterday was almost an exact rerun of a scenario that has been played out before: he warns Communist hardliners that they are deeply unpopular with the electorate, and then threatens to abandon the party to its fate and rely on an alternative power base as head of a democratic state.

But as analysts were pointing out yesterday, there are many reasons why the tactic is riskier now than before. He first used it at the end of 1989 and early last year, when he offered to step down during at least two successive meetings of the Communist central committee.

At the start of the current

central committee plenum, he issued a warning to orthodox Communists that might have been taken verbatim from his speeches of 16 months ago, when he was successfully cajoling a demoralised party, horrified by the fate of its comrades in Eastern Europe, into abandoning its formal monopoly on power.

"In all responsibility, let me tell you: anybody who in one way or another rejects reform and adopts a reactionary position is threatened with a definitive alienation from the masses, whose trust in the party has already weakened," he told the 400-strong committee.

Shortly before, he had waved in their faces his agree-

ment with the chiefs of nine Soviet republics on co-operation to end the rash of strikes and rescue the economy.

A little-noticed provision in the deal promised "elections to the organs of Soviet power" as soon as the constitution had been amended, so as to take account of the long-awaited federal treaty, remaking the country as a looser association of territories. That could mean either presidential or legislative elections, depending on what "organs of power" the new federation envisaged.

A senior activist in the Democratic Russia movement said yesterday: "It has been kept deliberately vague in order to allow room for manoeuvre, and no details will be clear until after the union treaty is concluded."

The reference to new elections to the federal organs, however, could be meant both to frighten unpopular Communist and disarm organisers of political strikes.

The biggest problem for Mr Gorbachev in reusing the old trick is that while the hardline Communists are still very unpopular, he is, too: so unpopular that it is hard to imagine him winning elections by universal suffrage.

He was elected to the new post of executive president last March by the supreme legislature, on the understanding that all future elections to the post would be by nationwide ballot.

While opinion polls point to an alarming disillusionment with all politicians, recent surveys by Moscow's leading polling agency, Data, suggest that Mr Gorbachev is supported by no more than 16 per cent of the electorate. His rival, Boris Yeltsin, still has the approval of at least half the voters in the Russian Federation, of which he is president.

A nationwide poll in mid-March asked 3,000 respondents which politician had pleased them most in the last few months. Mr Yeltsin won 26 per cent, while Mr Gorbachev trailed at 7 per cent. Significantly, 10 per cent said firmly that no politician had satisfied, and another 30 per cent were uncertain.

Leading article, page 23

Bonn treaties help Moscow

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS PART of an intensive German effort to help President Gorbachev, the Bundestag yesterday unanimously ratified wide-ranging good neighbour and economic treaties with the Soviet Union. The German government, desperately worried about the consequences if the Soviet leader falls, is doing all it can to bolster his position.

The treaties represent the closest tie that the Soviet Union has with any Western country, and the DM15 billion (£5 billion) of aid involved is the most tangible success so far of President Gorbachev's international diplomacy.

Bonn is doing its best to make sure that he is given the credit for this, hoping that boosting the president's international achievements will shore him up until his reforms work.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, told the Bundestag yesterday of "the importance President Gorbachev's policies have for developments in Europe and the world".

During a television interview on Wednesday evening, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, praised the president's com-

mitment with the chiefs of nine Soviet republics on co-operation to end the rash of strikes and rescue the economy.



Well of worries: a villager drawing water in Oparchichi, inside the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Like others, she will not leave her land

Disease stalks the children of Chernobyl

From ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

FOR both the public and politicians, the Chernobyl accident was a threshold separating "truth from lies" and heralding new values in the Soviet Union. Five years to the day after the world's worst civil nuclear disaster another threshold may soon be crossed. From the end of this year, leukaemia rates among 380,000 children, some of whom are only now being evacuated from contaminated land, are expected to rise sharply.

Svetlana Yakushev, senior consultant at children's hospital No. 1 in Kiev, said: "There have been more leukaemia cases already and a large increase in numbers is predicted for next year."

There are two groups most at risk: the 90,000 children who live on contaminated land in and around Chernobyl's 18-mile exclusion zone, and the 12,000 living near the reactor itself and receiving radiation doses of up to 200 mrd. Scientists estimate that 150 rad absorbed by a healthy adult may induce cancer.

Such fears were also voiced by Vladimir Shovkoshyn, a Ukrainian expert on Chernobyl. He said yesterday that 7,000 people had died from radiation exposure in the past five years and accused Moscow of a cover-up.

Research is still being hampered by a lack of information. "Sometimes, children are born without hands or properly formed stomachs, or with deformed mouths or heart trouble," Dr Yakushev said. "Of course, we had those cases

before but there are more of them now. There is also a rise in premature births. We think there is a link with Chernobyl but we can't be sure because nobody has financed research."

Yevgenia Stepanov, a senior paediatrician at the All-Union Centre for Radiation Medicine, said: "We believe that children's resistance to illness has decreased. Their immune systems have been damaged, leaving a very complex range of problems. What we are witnessing is a rise in general diseases." She

added: "The frequency of lung, stomach and nervous system illnesses has increased sharply."

Igor Pashinsky, aged five, was brought by his mother Raisa to the centre with kidney inflammation and constant headaches. Although they lived in Zitomir, well away from the exclusion zone, parts of the region were affected by fallout. "We have heard about the expected leukaemia rises," Mrs Pashinsky said. "But I must trust in the future."

Troops occupy Lithuania buildings

From ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

HUNDREDS of Soviet soldiers occupied ten buildings in Lithuania early yesterday. Most of them belonged to the Soviet military training organisation Dossav, now taken over by the Lithuanian state and renamed Vyta. No one was hurt in the occupations.

There has been no explanation as yet from the Soviet government or local command.

Audrina Azubalis, the Lithuanian parliamentary spokeswoman, yesterday said: "We are getting the impression that Soviet leadership has either lost control over the military units deployed in Lithuania, or is lying when in contact with the Lithuanian leadership."

Mr Azubalis said that on Wednesday, Vitaly Doguzhiyev, the Soviet deputy prime minister, had told President Landsbergis of Lithuania that "there can be no talk of the use of force".

The Soviet Communist parties in the Baltic republics, the most headline in the Soviet Union, were implicitly criticised by President Gorbachev in his first speech to the central committee plenum in Moscow this week. They are bitterly opposed to Baltic independence, and have close

links to the local Soviet military. There has long been speculation that these forces may be making their own strategy.

This is the first time that Soviet troops have carried out occupations outside the main Lithuanian cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. However, the move follows a previous pattern of securing what, according to the Kremlin's interpretation, is Soviet property. Buildings owned by Dossav in Vilnius were occupied last year and others were seized in January.

Most of the buildings are in areas with large Lithuanian majorities. They include technical schools in the port city of Klaipeda and four other towns, an aviation factory, an hotel, a flying club and a gliding club. According to the Lithuanian government, the aviation factory in Prienai is purely Lithuanian property. The republic's government

says that the troops have confiscated technical equipment, building materials, inventories and cars.

Following the incident on Wednesday, in which Soviet "Black-Better" commandos placed an armed guard on a bank in New Vilnius, Lithuanians fear a new wave of Soviet military action in the republic.

In a separate incident yesterday afternoon, a Soviet soldier was shot dead inside the radio and television centre in Vilnius, occupied by the army since January. The Soviet command in the city said that he was killed accidentally by another soldier who was cleaning his gun.

However, a source in the Lithuanian Red Cross said that a second soldier was wounded, and that there appeared to have been some kind of a fight among the soldiers inside the building.

Hungary privatises vineyards

Budapest - Hungary will start to privatise its state vineyards this year to try to spur exports and improve the quality of its grapes. Officials of the State Property Agency hope private investors can help to revive Hungary's wine-growing tradition after decades of communist management that emphasised quantity over quality.

Peter Rajcsanyi, who heads the programme, said the sell-off aims to broaden Hungary's access to world markets, bring in strategic partners who can help to improve local wines, boost foreign investment, and help smooth strained relations between grape growers and wine producers.

The agency plans to seek advisers to help it privatise six big wine producers. In a second stage, private investors would bid for nine state farms that specialise in wine and fruit juices. (Reuters)

Walesa ticks off creditors

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday chided Britain for its reluctance to write off more of Poland's debt and said Poland could not effect real political and economic change while grappling under such a heavy burden of debt.

He said after talks with Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, that British banks would get back their money if Britain were more ready to invest in Poland. And in reply to the strong doubts expressed by Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, on the wisdom of forgiving debts, he accused Western banks of helping the former communist

government finance the apparatus of repression.

On the third day of his state visit, Mr Walesa again gave a warning that Western indifference to Poland's economic needs could lead to disastrous consequences. He told a conference of young politicians from East and West European countries and North America: "Poverty in one region and opulence in others will force people to migrate. We must even out our differences levels. We must not replace the Iron Curtain with a silver one."

In Warsaw, his talks with British bankers were viewed as one of the key encounters of his visit because Poland's

economic future is looking increasingly precarious. Western bankers are proving to be reluctant to follow the example of creditor governments and write off a large chunk of Polish debt.

Poland owes \$10 billion in principal to commercial banks and a further \$1.1 billion in interest arrears. The Paris Club, which groups all the major government creditors, has agreed to write off 50 per cent of Poland's \$33 billion debt to national treasuries.

Not all the creditor countries are happy. Japan, for one, is wary of fresh lending at a time when debts are being forgiven.

Banger and mash

Lymes - A French housewife found a grenade from the second world war in a bag of potatoes she was about to cook. The potato-shaped British grenade had probably been scooped up by a picking machine, a police spokesman said. Experts were called in to defuse the device. (Reuters)

Haig attack trial

Stuttgart - The trial of a Red Army Faction member, who is charged with the murder of a German banker and aiding an attack on General Alexander Haig, has opened here. Susanne Albrecht, aged 40, eluded the authorities for more than a decade by hiding in East Germany as a housewife. (AP)

Doormen exit for the picket lines

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

MORE than most other towns, insulation is the key to a comfortable existence in Manhattan. Not the thermal kind, but the human. For the affluent and much of the middle class, life in the cacophonous and violent Big Apple is made bearable by a layer of doormen and other staff who perform services rarely found elsewhere in these egalitarian times.

As anyone knows from the cinema, New York doormen screen visitors, hail taxis at the press of a resident's buzzer, deliver mail, catch burglars, run lifts and serve as savants and comedians. So it is easy to gauge the scope of the emergency that befell about one million New Yorkers this week when all 30,000 members of the doormen and building staff union went on strike.

From the Victorian blocks of the Upper West Side to the mews of Greenwich Village, doormen and staff have exchanged their uniforms for sandwich-boards in support of a pay

you meet a better class of rot since the strike



claim. The result is a little surreal as residents have been forced to run a gauntlet of pickets outside their flats and organise watches to take out the rubbish and run services. While the pickets have sat in the sun with portable stereos blasting out salsa music, neighbours who have never previously exchanged more than a "hi" have been struggling to learn the secrets of rubbish compaction.

As in the blitz, the strike has produced heroes and shirkers. At the Dakota, the Victorian pile on Central Park West, for example, Lauren Bacall and Robert Flack were among residents who failed to sign up for duty, while on Park Avenue, Bianca Jagger has been hefting rubbish bags out to the street and at his apartment block in the Village, Edward Koch, the former mayor, has been wearing the doorman's cap. For the most part, the pickets have remained deferential but firm, barring entry among other things to the boys who deliver the groceries and ready-cooked dinners, vital to survival.

Sometimes, a little malice is evident. In the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue, home to Andrew Lloyd Webber, Steven Spielberg and Mr Trump, the strikers have been reported giggling at the spectacle of residents making do for themselves. A whiff of blackmail has also appeared. Julio Valor, a concierge, pointed out: "I see the divorcees, the affairs, you name it... I've got to be worth more than they are paying."



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Yugoslav president predicts bloody abyss

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Jovic of Yugoslavia yesterday painted a grim picture of the country's present and predicted collapse and of bloody conflict unless the six republics find a rapid solution to their political and economic problems.

Addressing the federal parliament probably for the last time before his one-year term expires, Dr Jovic, who represents Serbian hardliners, said that the country was heading for a "bloody abyss", as law and order were breaking down, and central government was being blocked by republics seeking more independence. Dr Jovic said the prospect of ethnic violence and social unrest was real and, according to some analysts, could not be avoided.

Talks about Yugoslavia's political future as an association of sovereign states, or a federation, which is what Serbia wants, have moved from the federal presidency to the leaders of the republics, who have been meeting once a week, but have failed to make any headway.

Serbia and Montenegro insist on a federation with central institutions, defence and foreign affairs policies, and monetary systems, while Slovenia and Croatia want an association of sovereign states with their own armies, foreign policy and currencies. The failure to break the deadlock prompted an agreement to hold a nationwide referendum, but this is now in question because the Serbians, who proposed it, have changed their minds.

While the republics cannot agree with one another, the federal government of Ante Markovic, the prime minister, which has a reform programme aimed at halting economic collapse and a slide into civil war, is being opposed by the republics whose agreement

it must ensure to carry out changes.

Mr Markovic, whose hand has been strengthened by Western support for his economic policy, has been under pressure to resign, but it is unlikely that even his most bitter critics would precipitate his resignation and leave Yugoslavia without a government that could negotiate with key Western institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund.

Last week, Mr Markovic asked the republics to back his economic programme, which included a 30 per cent devaluation and tight monetary controls. He said that it was the only way to hold the Yugoslav economy together and ensure Western loans, estimated at \$5 billion (£2.9 billion).



Big boys don't cry: two babies, in the arms of some wrestlers, facing one another in a competition to find the strongest pair of young lungs at the Sensoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo yesterday. Sixty children born last year took part in the contest, held when prayers are said for the health of babies

MPs vote to avoid witness box duties

Madrid — A majority of the Congress of Deputies, the powerful lower house in Spain, voted to exempt themselves, Senate members, many political appointees, and military and religious leaders from testifying in person in court (Harry Debelius writes).

MPs opposing the measure, backed by the ruling Socialists and Catalan nationalists, said that, if it becomes law, the former interior minister, Jose Barrionuevo, would not be required to testify in person in June in the "GAL" case, in which police are suspected of organising the murders of members of Eta, the Basque separatist movement.

It would also restrict testimony in legal actions arising from the alleged free use of an office in a state building by Juan Guerra, brother of the former deputy prime minister, Alfonso Guerra, to conduct private business.

Pensioner held

Karlsruhe — An east German pensioner has been charged with recruiting "Heinrich P", a Bonn defence ministry official who was exposed as a spy last week. The pensioner, aged 64, named only as Werner K., was arrested on suspicion of having worked as a Stasi agent. (Reuters)

Borg sees wife

Milan — Bjorn Borg, the former Wimbledon champion, visited his Italian wife, the pop singer Loredana Berté, aged 40, in hospital a day after she tried to commit suicide by swallowing sedatives. She had left a note "commending my soul to God". Her recovery should be complete, a doctor said. (Reuters)

Lion returns

Venice — The winged lion of St Mark, the symbol of Venice, which is thought to date from the fourth century BC, was returned to its column on the lagoon waterfront after restoration, which took five years. Venetians held a Mass in St Mark's basilica and a parade in Renaissance costume to celebrate. (Reuters)

Opposition kicks hard for Rocard's red card

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

POLITICS made way for football on the French front pages yesterday, but although parliament suspended business to watch Olympique Marseille get to the final of the European Cup, the hard-pressed Socialist government was soon under renewed attack.

Opposition leaders have stepped up demands for President Mitterrand to dismiss Michel Rocard and call elections after the prime minister, for the third time recently, withdrew a key piece of legislation because he feared that it would be defeated.

A bill to reform the hospital service will test the minority Socialist government's strength next week. The bill is opposed by two mainstream conservative factions and the Communists, who generally support M Rocard, and its rejection could force the Socialists to face their 12th vote of confidence since coming to power in 1988. If it comes to that and if M Rocard goes under, his fate would lie in the hands of the president.

M Mitterrand has urged the government to be "clear, firm and vigorous",

neglecting to suggest what it might do in the face of its present troubles. Opinion polls show there is concern about the handling of a scandal involving Socialist party campaign finances.

The apparent impotence of the government to sustain its legislative agenda has sharpened opposition complaints that the country is moving into dangerous constitutional waters. M Rocard insists that questions of resignation or the dissolution of parliament were not raised when M Mitterrand held the regular weekly ministers' meeting.

Smoking 'biggest cause of Western early death'

By NICHOLAS WATT

SMOKING is the biggest cause of premature death in the developed world and a third of the world's population have little or no access to drugs, according to the World Health Organisation.

The organisation says its findings dispel the myth that deaths linked to smoking occur only in the very old. Almost 800,000 people between the ages of 35 and 64 die every year in the developed world from illnesses related to smoking. The organisation blames the poor distribution of drugs on "sheer unavailability" and overpricing. This has meant that, while more than two-thirds of people live in the Third

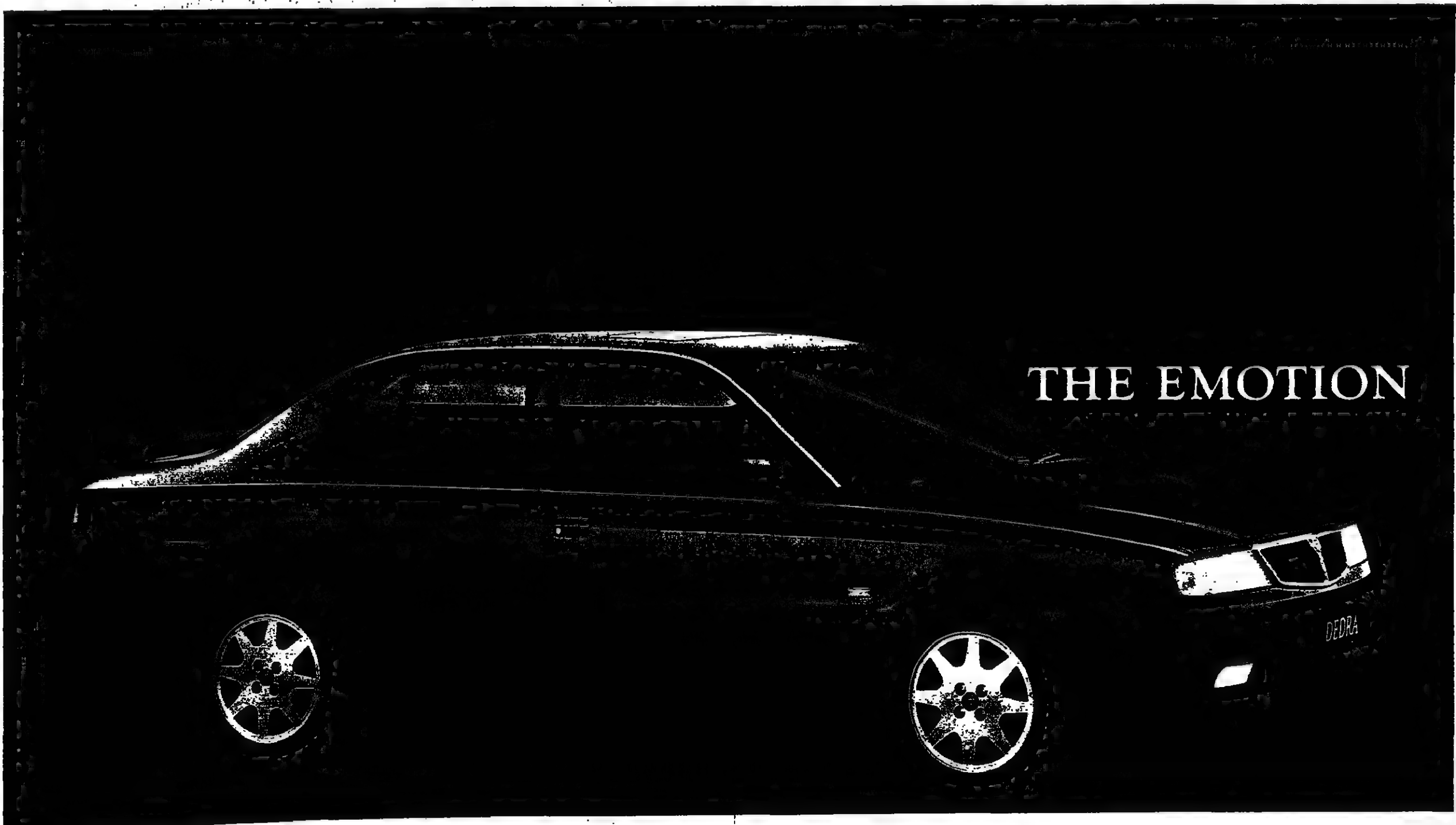
World, they account for less than a third of the drugs market.

The WHO 1990 World Health Statistical Annual says, however, that in less than 20 years the number of one-year-old children who have been given a third dose of polio or DPT — diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus — vaccine has almost reached the two-thirds mark. The programme has taught 500,000 health workers and the organisation estimates that about 2.2 million deaths a year are being prevented.

Malaria is one of the most serious and widely spread tropical diseases, and more than 40 per cent of the world's

population are still exposed to the disease. Of these, 32 per cent live in regions where it is re-emerging after it had been eliminated or reduced. Although the report concludes that there is no solution, as the parasites that carry malaria are developing resistance to the drugs, it is calling for urgent investment and more commitment at local and international levels.

Blindness in two-thirds of sufferers could be cured or could have been prevented. However, there seems little hope as more than 90 per cent of blind people live in the Third World. The organisation says cataracts cause up to two-thirds of all blindness.



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ANC chief threatens mass protests if Mandela is convicted

From Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

THE chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, has threatened mass protests if Winnie Mandela is convicted of kidnapping and assault by the Rand supreme court. Chris Hani yesterday also vowed that an ANC government would release her if she were imprisoned.

His controversial statements in Washington, where he was addressing a peace foundation, contradict the ANC's stated commitment to an independent judiciary in a post-apartheid era. Newspaper editorials yesterday castigated him for advocating "mobocracy", and called on the ANC leadership to affirm that his views are an aberration of its official policy.

It is not the first time that Mr Hani, a militant communist, has caused concern in government circles and the ranks of his own organization. Having established a formidable power base in the nominally independent Transkei, he is unquestionably a rising red

star in the ANC. He enjoys close relations with General Bantu Holomisa, the ruler of the Xhosa-speaking tribal homeland in Natal, and has assembled an entourage of influential proteges, most of whom are fellow members of the South African Communist Party. They include Pat Holomisa, a relative of the general, who is president of the congress of traditional leaders which garners support for the ANC among hereditary (tribal) rulers.

Mr Hani's popularity in the territory has been increased by statements that the ANC should be prepared to seize power if negotiations with Pretoria broke down. Government sources have alleged that Umkhonto fighters are storing arms in private houses and remote areas in Transkei, but General Holomisa has dismissed the reports as propaganda. Mr Hani, aged 48, is said to be a scholar of Latin classics and Marxist literature. He joined the ANC youth league in 1957, and rose steadily through the ranks of

Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) to become its political commissar and deputy commander in 1982. Five years later, he became chief of staff in succession to Joe Slovo, the leader of the Communist party.

His ascendancy impinges directly on the reform process in South Africa, because he is a strong contender for high office at an ANC national congress scheduled for June. In Washington, he said that his Marxist convictions had not been affected by events in Eastern Europe.

● **CAPE TOWN:** The South African government announced yesterday that all-white teacher and technical colleges will be opened to all races next month.

Piet Claes, the minister of white education and culture, said that the move also included reform schools and colleges which teach special education and child care. On Tuesday, Pretoria said it would submit legislation to parliament ending racial quotas at universities. (AP)



Royal touch: the Princess of Wales holding a girl with the Aids virus at a hostel for deprived children in Foz de Iguaçu, near São Paulo, during the Brazilian royal visit yesterday

China steps up Tibet security for anniversary

By David Watts, Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Chinese authorities have arrested 44 alleged criminals in a new crackdown in Tibet before the 40th anniversary of its forcible assimilation into China next month. Thirty of the accused are reported to be guilty of theft and causing injury and will be tried. The other 14 will be sent for "re-education" through labour.

The arrests follow the detention of at least nine monks, since the beginning of last month, who are all accused of taking part in pro-independence demonstrations or of putting up posters.

The Chinese government is determined that the anniversary of what is called the peaceful liberation of Tibet will be celebrated in grand style on May 23. To make sure that those people with a different interpretation of the anniversary do not disrupt it, a massive propaganda campaign, backed by a large military build-up, has been under way for some time. Planes loaded with troops are said to have been arriving at Lhasa in recent weeks, and the Office of Tibet in London reports that an additional 100,000 troops are being positioned to suppress any demonstrations.

Early this month, representatives from 40 areas were called to Lhasa for instruction on how the anniversary is to be celebrated in "grandeur and style", and were ordered to maintain 24-hour vigilance against any possible demonstrations or the display of posters. The Tibet Office says 200 intelligence officers have been drafted in from Peking and Shanghai to monitor events.

For many Tibetans, the most disturbing sign of the preparations for the anniversary is the rebuilding of the old Barkhor district of Lhasa and the replacement of the unusual octagonal cobbled road around the Jokhang temple with a modern surface. A huge monument to the consolidation of communism is being erected and various economic projects are being linked to the celebrations, including the expansion of the airport and a new hydroelectric plant.

The Peking authorities appear to be determined that nothing will mar the occasion, although it is hard to imagine that any foreigners will be there to witness any embarrassment to a leadership equally nervous about the stability and allegiance of Hong Kong after its return to Chinese rule in 1997. No guest list has yet been revealed and there are few regimes, with the possible exception of North Korea, that are likely to want to be associated with the anni-

versary. Since the Chinese invaded Tibet in 1951, it is estimated that 1.2 million Tibetans have died or been killed as a result of Peking's policies. Many of the deaths were caused by economic famine after the Chinese changed Tibetan farming practices and forced farmers into communes. It is believed that 87,000 died in the years immediately after the invasion. Only 3 per cent of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries have escaped destruction.

Korean minister sacked

Seoul — President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea sacked his environment minister over a water pollution scandal that has triggered a national furor. A presidential spokesman said that Mr Roh replaced Huh Nam Hoon with Kwon E Hyock, a former health minister. The president also replaced the deputy environment minister.

Mr Huh's ministry has been criticised for failing to protect supplies of drinking water which have been repeatedly contaminated by toxic waste, discharged by an affiliate of one of South Korea's largest business conglomerates, the Daewoo Group. The chairman of the group, Park Yong Kon, resigned on Wednesday, because of the scandal.

Mr Park stepped down after an affiliated company was accused of contaminating, for a second time, the Nakdong river which supplies water to ten million people around Taegu, the third largest city in South Korea. (Reuters)

Student suicide

Hong Kong — A first-year Peking university student, Hsiao Pozi, aged 18, undergoing political indoctrination at a military academy, died after shooting himself in the head. He had been rejected in love twice by high-school sweethearts. (Reuters)

Unity pledge

Manila — The Philippines' two senior generals, Lieutenant-General Lisandro Abadía, and the man who tried to discredit his promotion, Major-General Alexander Aguirre, pledged to end their public quarrel over military reforms. Their dispute had threatened to divide further her fractious army. (Reuters)

Delhi madam on the hustings

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

INDIAN prostitutes will have a champion in next month's elections as Nimmi Bai runs for parliament. She has been in the trade for 25 years, and now oversees a brothel in a dingy room on G B Road in the old part of Delhi.

No prostitute has stood for election before. She will not win, because only people with money and connections make it to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament. She is, however, shedding light on something that India would prefer not to know about: illicit sex.

Prostitution, like homosexuality, is not officially admitted. As a result, there are no government policies nor facilities for prostitutes seeking to get out of the trade. The failure of the government to recognize the issue also explains why it refuses to launch a high-profile campaign against Aids.

The issues arising in India's tenth general election barely touch on the myriad social ills that seem shocking to outsiders, but which are statistically accepted by most Indians. Nimmi Bai is an embarrassment, because she is highlighting one of them. Many women are kidnapped and forced into prostitution, and brothel-keepers may keep them high on drugs, and never pay them. "I not only represent the wishes of the prostitutes of G B Road, but of the entire country," Nimmi Bai said.

She has filed nomination papers from a Delhi constituency as an independent candidate. She wants the government to provide education for prostitutes' children. Of all

the tens of thousands of contenders who have filed their nominations across India, she is one of the few with specific proposals to help the deprived.

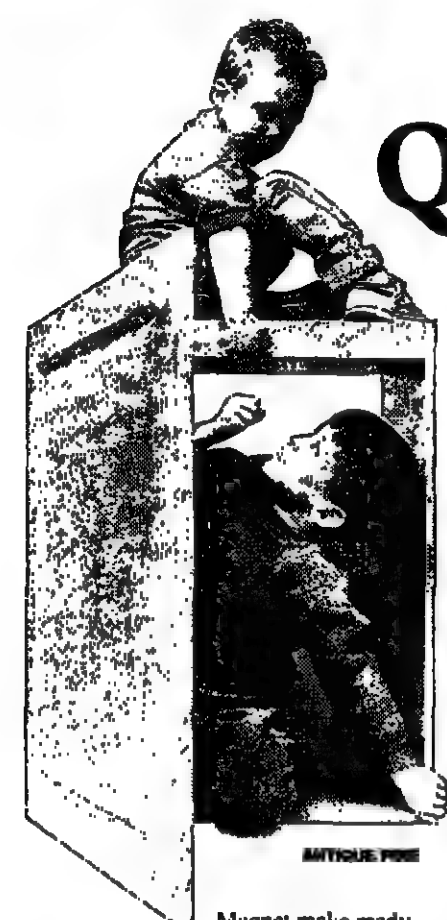
The scene outside the offices of the big political parties in Delhi says much about the political system. During the past month, would-be MPs have been camping on lawns and pavements, waiting to surge forward every time an important party official passes by.

The manifestos of the principal parties are a litany of excessive promises, but they contain few specifics. Congress (I), for example, says it will eliminate poverty. Most of the dominant issues in this campaign are a far cry from anything that Nimmi Bai cares about.

No party manifesto mentions the plight of bonded labourers, for example, hundreds of thousands of whom work as slaves on building sites. Nobody is pledging to eradicate child labour, which is regarded by all parties as unstoppable in such a poor country. While the population continues its march towards a billion, no party is advocating a concerted birth control programme, and the idea of women's rights has yet to take root.

The gap between rich and poor continues to grow, but no manifesto mentions it. While impoverished, illiterate peasants fight over religion and caste, the upper middle classes enjoy unprecedented prosperity, comparable with anywhere in the West. Nimmi Bai says: "It is always the common man who falls victim."

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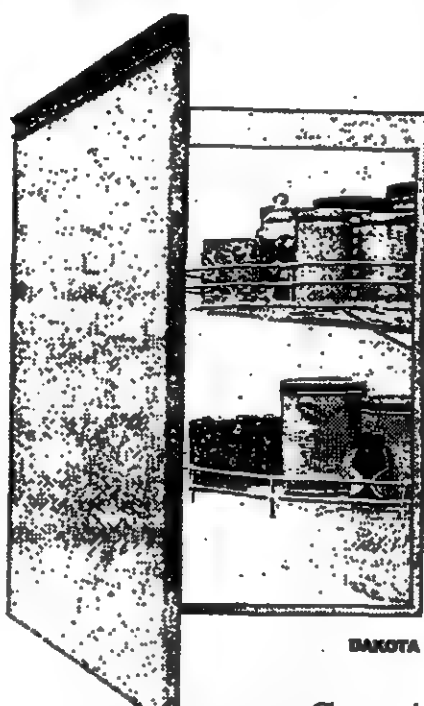
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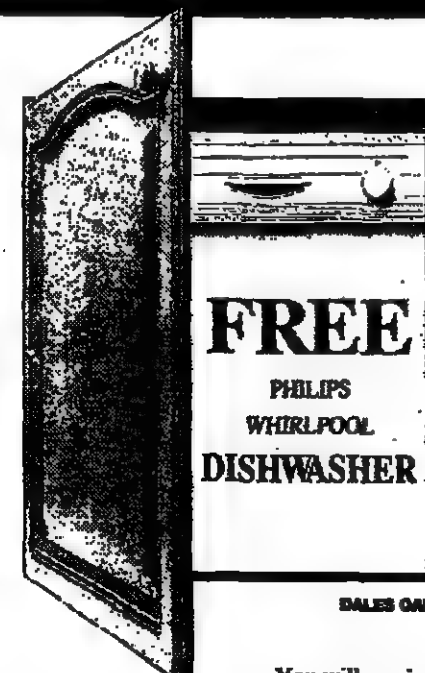


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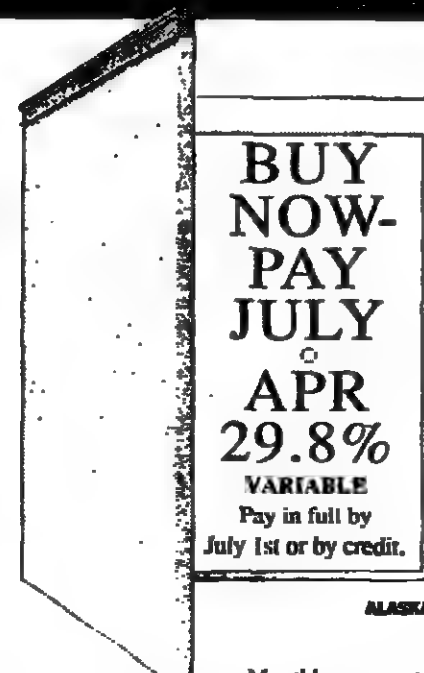
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Kate Muir reports on a family's campaign to clear its name of child neglect

Parents in a net of suspicion

THE McGowans are being investigated by the state. They feel like terrorists, never told what they are accused of, or by whom. They are discussed in meetings, the existence of which is denied afterwards. Their personal lives become public property. Those who know them are questioned. They are the subject of thick files and growing suspicion.

After some months, the McGowans discover the nature of their crime: they have given birth to a son who is slightly underweight. This explains the regular appearances of an over-zealous health visitor, the questioning of their childminder on "routine" visits, and why their GP takes an extraordinary interest in the baby and keeps insisting that he is weighed.

The investigations continue even when Dr Marian McGowan, herself a community paediatrician, provides a carefully plotted chart showing her son William, although small, is growing normally, and that her four other healthy children are also below average height. She has the child examined by an independent paediatrician, who finds nothing amiss.

But by then it is too late. The bureaucracy is up and rolling. Forms are being filled in, comments noted, at least some are convinced the child is "failing to thrive". A social work case conference is held, but the parents are not allowed to attend, or comment. They fear their child may be put on the "at risk" register, or taken away.

This week, after nearly a year of investigation, harassment and stress, the McGowans were cleared.

"One is left at the end of it all worrying how many other families have had their children taken away, who wouldn't have the knowledge to put up the fight we did," Dr McGowan says.

Her husband Michael takes out a pile of files. There are letters to and from social work departments, doctors, paediatricians and health visitors on the case which never existed. "If it had been a single mother living in a council high rise,

she would not have stood a chance of keeping her child," says Mr McGowan, 41, a graduate and an insurance salesman. "Sometimes it was only my wife's specialised knowledge of procedures in child neglect cases that kept us from being completely overwhelmed."

Investigations into the McGowans started just after they moved last year to a big house in Islington, north London. In 1987, they had been visited by social workers at their previous home in the Barbican, in the City of London, after a hour phone call had been made to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children alleging the McGowans were not feeding the children properly.

Social workers dismissed the claims as bogus within four days. But, the McGowans say, the NSPCC refused to erase the enquiry from its records. "So when we arrived in Islington, we were seen somehow as guilty because we had once been investigated," Mr McGowan says.

The underweight interest in William began six months after the McGowans moved to Islington, about the time their medical records would have arrived. A visit to watch the family in action at home might have suggested all the worries of the Islington social workers last year. But no social workers visited them to make a report. The case was based on the testimony of a paediatrician who saw William only from a distance and one health visitor who made it clear to Dr McGowan that she did not approve of working mothers who used childminders.

But the fact that Dr McGowan works seems to have had little adverse effect on her children, who are eating shepherd's pie and vegetables around the kitchen table. William, now two, is sitting on his 11-year-old sister's knee feeding himself. He moves on to creamed rice and



Charles: Marian and Michael McGowan and their son William, who was the focus of social workers' attention

plums, some of which he puts on the front of his pyjamas. Another sister is roller skating around the kitchen, and a second informs everyone that her duck slippers are called "Donald One and Donald Two" and says she can read Roman numerals. They do not look an unhappy family; at intervals various children climb their parents' legs for hugs.

The social workers never saw this, or noted that all the children are slight, like their parents. One suspicion led to another, and because the McGowans fought back, changed GPs, and brought in independent experts, they were some-

how suspected of covering things up. There were slightly derogatory remarks made about the fact that Mr McGowan, who often works from home, looked after the children a lot. "I also got the impression that people slightly disapproved of us being such a large family," says Dr McGowan, aged 39, who is Catholic and expecting another child in August. "Perhaps they

thought there were so many that we would forget to feed the youngest, but of course, he gets the most attention."

She was not worried only about her son, but her professional reputation. How could she have appeared to testify in other neglect cases, when she believed her own son might be put on the "at risk" register?

"I have never come across anything like this in terms of secrecy and subterfuge dealing with child neglect cases in the borough where I work."

The Butler-Sloss guidelines, written after the Cleveland enquiry, and a policy document called "Working Together" were ignored. The McGowans were never told the investigation was going on, until they found out. They were not allowed into the two case conferences on their child, and could not put their side of the argument. Their requests for a meeting with the neighbourhood social services department were ignored.

"If the health authority and social services had been completely open about the investigation in the first place, and asked to see William at home, and had visited the family, then they would have got to the truth a lot more quickly," Mr McGowan says.

'A single mother in a council high rise would not have stood a chance'

A commercial undertaking

Just when the bereaved are at their most vulnerable, the funeral business steps in

ONE advantage of a modern welfare state is that when you have your worst moments, those professionals who cross your path are free from the profit motive. If you wake up and cannot see, your child is run over or your house catches fire, then the doctor, ambulance man or fireman is not going to whip out a price list.

The exception — pinpointed this week after dogged investigation by the Labour MP Lawrence Cunliffe — is bereavement. When someone dies, the emergency and medical professions fade away as into the foreground steps the funeral director.

He, or she, is not a public servant on a salary. This is a business, and not a bad business either. Mr Cunliffe claimed in the Commons that some undertakers make 1,000 per cent on equipment. His figures are disputed by the trade, but it is beyond debate that hundreds of small family concerns have been bought out by big combines, and that this has intensified a commercial tone which does not sit well with the sensitivities of the newly bereaved.

The costs are not all that offend. You do not have to go far for anecdotal evidence of undertakers' staff who are scruffy, brisk, and less than sympathetic. Services which some of us might not want are offered as a matter of course. "Hygienic treatment" is mentioned in hushed tones as being included in the set-menu price, but how many people know or dare speculate what the phrase means? What sounds like a

brief wipe with germicide actually involves the draining out of the blood and its replacement with a chemical preservative — "surface embalming", in fact. If you want the corpse untouched except for the minimum of laying-out, it is often necessary to say so very firmly.

As for the "chapel of rest" proudly included in the price, not everyone appreciates this kind of viewing. As one family put it, "the shock of finding your father coiffed and rouged and clad in a sky-blue dicky-fronted tuxedo is not something you easily forget". All they had said to their brisk, euphemistic undertaker was: "Er, yes, whatever's usual".

To blame the trade is probably simplistic. If we kicked up more fuss it would undoubtedly respond, but we are unwilling to look at the product in advance: who wants to see themselves as future consumers of funeral services?

Maybe the way to get cheapness with taste is to die in a remote rural area, where small concerns remain close to the matter-of-fact traditions of a past age. I know the proprietor of one such who, at the burials of the friendless, says prayers himself over the grave. Nor will he offer any frills unless the client asks. "I don't touch the body any more than I need to, I never embalm, or do all that face-painting and hairdressing and I'm not a salesman of fancy shrouds. It's a vocation, see, not just a business."

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WOOLWORTHS

GALLERIES: BERLIN

The emperor's new wardrobe

If it's here, it's art:
John Russell Taylor
reviews a German
exhibition full of
implausibilities

No doubt about it, the latest (and possibly the last) Berlin mega-show, *Metropolis*, starts off with boldly theatrical effect. As the visitor walks into the Marun-Gropius-Bau's splendid central atrium, cunningly half-restored to its original 19th-century splendour, half left to the ravages of its more recent history, there is spectacle indeed.

To the right is Jonathan Borofsky's towering polychromatic clown-figure, with beard and tuts. In the centre is an elaborate neon-outlined installation by Ian Hamilton Finlay, entitled *Cythera*: rows of truncated columns with inscriptions. To the left is Jan Fabre's *Knipsbaardhuis II*, two large slightly Egyptian-looking cupboards in wood, back-to-back and coloured blue laboriously with ballpoint. Up above there floats Mike and Doug Star's *Film Sphere*, an open globe made of metal strips and strips of photographs, unreadable at the distance. Along the outside walls, under the arcade on both levels, can already be glimpsed elaborate and colourful photographic installations. The stage is grandly set: it is time for the performance to begin.

But what, precisely, is this performance to be about? The show is put together by the same two curators, Christos Joachimides in Germany and Norman Rosenthal in Britain, who devised the 1982 blockbuster "Zeitgeist" held in the same premises.

What "Zeitgeist" promised, and to a large extent achieved, like it or not, was a programme for art in the Eighties. The most impressive part of it was that devoted to the new figurative in painting, soon to be branded Neo-Expressionism.

At least it was clear that, after the conceptual experimentation of the Seventies, many older artists had gone back to painting in traditional fashion, and many younger artists were following suit. Painters presented together there in force for the first time, such as Kiefer, Lüpertz, Baselitz, Clemente, Chia, Penck and Schnabel, were indeed to dominate the art market for much of the next decade.

So it had been natural to assume



The stage, grandly set: Jonathan Borofsky's polychromatic clown-figure, with beard and tuts (right) dominates *Metropolis* in Berlin.

that "Metropolis" would try to do the same for the Nineties. That is not, in the event, quite what emerges. At least, I hope not.

To begin with, eight of the artists included are reprised from "Zeitgeist", none of them looking much the better for the time-lapse. Baselitz, for instance, shows a roomful of his familiar upside-down painted images; Gübber and George are represented by a triptych made in 1986, and already shows all over the world.

Several other artists, such as Bruce Nauman, Edward Ruscha and Gerhard Richter, are of a generation to have been shown in "Zeitgeist" (though they were not), and certainly have few new revelations to offer now. But the whole show seems like a ragbag, making presentation stand in for any integrity and coherence in the things presented.

Joachimides was frank, or tactless, enough to give an interview, shortly before the show opened, in which he observed that today the public was ruder and more disorientated when it came to art, with nobody having any real idea what was art and what was not. Art, he added, was these days defined as

such solely by its context, by where and how it was shown.

Therefore the guidance that a show like "Metropolis" could offer resided almost entirely in the selection and the way it was shown. "But is it art?" was no longer a relevant question: it was art if a show like "Metropolis" presented it as art. This can be seen either as the

new faith, or as the new confidence trick. Take the work of Peter Fischli and David Weiss. Here they present an installation consisting simply of a series of travel photographs in lurid colour, such as might be seen any month in the *National Geographic*. In the catalogue it is firmly asserted that such work is "the fruit of an artistic mentality in unstable equilibrium, oscillating between aesthetic seriousness, thorough-going scepticism and artistic frivolity". Or in other words, if you are inspired to remark that the emperor is wearing no clothes, you will be promptly assured that your achieving this perception is the real point of

the art work. A fairly depressing outlook for the next decade, surely? Of course not all the art on show is so questionable. Some of it is at least interestingly odd, such as Guillermo Kuitca's home-made mattresses, irregularly buttoned and painted with detailed roadmaps notable for their erratic spelling of quite familiar place-names. (Spelling is not the strong point even of native English-speakers, to judge by Mike Kelley's adjacent aphorisms of the great and famous about art, accompanying movie-poster images of them, worked up from photographs.)

Some of it at least has a perceptible concept if minimal behind it, such as Maria Eichmann's walls covered with a Victorian stencil pattern with the colouring ingeniously varied to suggest fading and defacement.

There are some quite good jokes (I think they are jokes) such as Haim Steinbach's assemblage of fake elephant-foot stools, and bad jokes like Yasunasa Morimura's photo-collages inserting Barbie-

dolls and such into an Old Master view of the Crucifixion, or Jeff Koons's determinedly kitsch statuary, for the man just ready to move on from garden gnomes.

Some pieces emerge from the wreckage. Our own Bill Woodrow's metal sculpture, *Rua*, is magical, mysterious and genuinely sculptural. Bruce Nauman's *Animal Pyramid*, which piles up wooden-looking (actually foam) animals in circus extravagance on each another's backs, certainly catches the eye, if not the mind. Cindy Sherman's latest photographs, which appear to be of gobs and mould, are at least deliberately repellent. And I found myself rather taken with John M. Armleder's assemblages of furniture and fittings, redolent of the most cheerless dentist's office.

If "Metropolis" is taken as a giant funfair, showing some of the best and a lot of the worst of art currently lying around, then its showmanship is unassailable. If it is to be used for divining the future of art, however, it would not doubt be more sensible to turn to the entrails of an ox.

This season has already seen his definitive portrayal of the tormented High Brahmin in *La Bayadere* and the vengeful yet compelling Lescart in MacMillan's *Manon*. Now comes the opportunity for him to illuminate Rosland's eloquent, suffering hero, the master swordsman whose unrequited love for Roxane is the ruling passion of his life.

"Cyrano's got compassion; I don't think he's got time to hate. He's got so much passion in him for love and life, for his men around him, the cadets, but mainly for this woman," says Jeffries. "He's like butter, she just has to look at him and he melts away."

There seems to be little in common between Jeffries and the character of Cyrano de Bergerac, a man overwhelmed by the physical affliction of his huge nose. Yet the dancer is drawing on unexpected parallels in his own life: when he was two years old his mother fainted, dropping a pot of boiling water on him. He was in hospital for six months recovering from burns.

"Because of that I can understand, in one way, what Cyrano the character actually went through. I've got scars on my arms and chest. When I was a kid I used to cover them up. Now, after I've been in the company for 20 years, people don't even notice. I've got scars - but I know I have them. In a way it's the same with Cyrano. For years he is obsessed with this blasted nose but other people can't see it. I will draw on my own

experiences, of going to the swimming pool, for example. Even when people weren't looking, I would fantasise that people could see my burns. It would change my character."

As for the frustration of Cyrano's unrequited love for Roxane: "I try to put myself in that situation. How would I feel? Here is this woman, this vision that you're so madly in love with, and you think is in love with you, and she isn't. You're just left gob-smacked. You draw on your own experiences; it happened to me when I was a young kid."

Jeffries' approach to acting is instinctive. With no formal dramatic training, he learned early on that theatrical integrity would be his strength. "A lot of dancers are embarrassed about acting. They are brought up to concentrate on technique. I was lucky in that I was with the old touring company, which had tremendous characters, wonderful actors. From them I learned that acting and dancing are one."

"I used to have this big hang-up about the classical roles because I didn't have a perfect body for the prince in *Swan Lake*. Once I watched someone dancing the prince, whom I won't name, he looked splendid, but he acted wooden. He did not seem true

to me, so I thought I would try and act it as a story but make it real. And that's how it began. I tried to make everything real so that the audience could relate to what I was doing."

But how does one find reality amid the absurd and exotic narratives of classic ballets such as *Swan Lake*?

"You tell a story so it doesn't matter how fantastic it is. When I read a story to my kids, I make it as real as I can, even when it's about improbable things like flying magic carpets. That's what I try to achieve on stage."

With the current emphasis on technical virtuosity, Jeffries' brand of actor-dancer is a rare breed, sometimes overlooked in the shadow of dazzling dance displays elsewhere on stage. But he foresees audiences growing tired of physical pyrotechnics.

"The technical thing is becoming so common now; in fact it's becoming boring because everybody sees the same thing. People are beginning to be dissatisfied with watching 20 pirouettes and 16 consecutive double turns."

"We are going to see a revolution, with dramatic acting and production work coming back into ballet. I'd like to be part of that revolution, and I hope Cyrano will help make it happen."

● Cyrano opens next Thursday at the Royal Opera House, London WC2 (071-240 1066).

DANCE

Rewarded by a sniff of glory

Debra Craine
meets the dancer
who will portray
Cyrano in David
Bintley's new ballet

For any dancer, the chance to create a new role is a treat. For a male dancer that treat is doubly sweet, because juicy roles for men are scarce in the classical repertoire. For Stephen Jeffries, Covent Garden's latest full-length ballet - *Cyrano* - should be a veritable feast.

At the age of 39, and after 20 years at the Royal Opera House, Jeffries has waited a long time for his own three-act ballet. *Cyrano* is also the first full-length work for the Royal by its resident choreographer, David Bintley, with a specially commissioned score from Wilfried Joseph. And it will surely confirm that Jeffries is the Royal's best actor-dancer.

It's the crowning moment of his career, says Jeffries. That career began in 1969 when he joined the Royal Ballet's Touring Company (now the Birmingham Royal Ballet). Later he spent a year with the National Ballet of Canada, returning to the main Royal Ballet company in 1977 and becoming one of its most versatile performers. Aside from six months off in 1982 to star in the West End production of *Song and Dance*, he has been at Covent Garden ever since.

He is an actor of unusual power. With the ability to bring a realistic intensity to a sometimes unreal airform, he breathes new life into characters often treated as ciphers in the fantasy world of classical ballet.

This season has already seen his definitive portrayal of the tormented High Brahmin in *La Bayadere* and the vengeful yet compelling Lescart in MacMillan's *Manon*. Now comes the opportunity for him to illuminate Rosland's eloquent, suffering hero, the master swordsman whose unrequited love for Roxane is the ruling passion of his life.

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Making heroes flesh and blood: Stephen Jeffries

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CRITIC'S CHOICE: BERLIN GALLERIES

REAL VISION. Josef Schert was always a somewhat restless figure, who began associated with the realist of the Neue Sachlichkeit, then moved on, especially after he emigrated to America in 1937, to become a visionary painter in dazzling colour. The emphasis in this show is on the later work. Josef Schert, Galerie Neuenhof, 18 Hardenbergstrasse, Charlottenburg (7555000) Tue-Fri 2-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until July 7.

CUBIST. After a beginning as a pure Cubist maker of collages and constructed reliefs, Henri Laurens developed a more relaxed and decorative style, indeed, times almost into a Deco style of sculpture. A comprehensive show of his sculpture, collages, drawings and prints. Henri Laurens, Altes Museum, Bodestraße 1-3, Museuminsel (20355-0) Wed-Sun 10am-5pm, until June 2.

SHOWING THE WAY. Among the artists of the Bauhaus, Walter Gropius was noted as a typographer and, in his earlier years, a painter. Many of his most individual works were in the form of illuminated signs, for shops, offices, handcrosses, and anyone else modern enough for his ideas. Now interestingly period and nostalgic. Walter Gropius, Bauhaus-Archiv, 14 Klingelhofstrasse, Tiergarten (254002-0) Wed-Mon 11am-5pm, Fri to 8pm, until June 6.

LEADEN WINGS. Since Anselm Kiefer was one of the great revelations of "Zeitgeist" in 1982, it is appropriate that his first German retrospective should coincide with

the show's successor, "Metropolis". Early drawings and recent works in lead, including his current obsession with aeroplanes. Anselm Kiefer, Neue Nationalgalerie, 50 Potsdamer Strasse, Tiergarten (266-8) Tue-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm, until May 20.

ALL INSTALLED. The first use by the Stiftung Starke of its grand premises in Grunewald, the Lion's Palace, as a permanent exhibition centre proves to be a version of the "Status of Sculpture" show already seen in London at the ICA. This collection of fine American sculpture/installation makers may not be entirely encouraging, but the location is spectacular. Status of Sculpture, Stiftung Starke, 30-32 Königsallee, Grunewald (825 7686) Tue to Sun, 12 to 6.30pm, until June 1.

ONE OF ENGLAND'S more durable exports, Joe Jackson has nevertheless suffered a decline since his days as the New Wave eminence grise of spivrock. His last album, *Blaze of Glory*, sold respectably in America, his country of residence since 1983, but barely scraped into the Top 40 over here.

It would be a pity if a similar fate were to befall *Laughter and Lust*, another fine and varied collection that gives a menopausal twist to some otherwise conventional rock themes. "My House" finds Jackson empathising with the middle-aged executive dreading his nightly return to the cloying redneck of suburban family life. In "The Old Songs" he rails against the unrealistic expectations of eternal youth fostered by the rock 'n' roll myth, and becomes the wave of nostalgia that has engulfed his generation: "The hopes and dreams of twenty years ago/They're all over the bloody radio".

With a mixture of intelligent, upbeat rock, leavened on several tracks by hot-blooded Latin rhythms, this is one of the most accessible and heart-bared for it will certainly not felt albums Jackson has produced since his earliest work.

There is nothing new about

As the Manchester scene falls apart at the seams, the bands that benefited most from the phenomenon are naturally the quickest to distance themselves from it. Inspiral Carpe's new like it to know that they come from Oldham, which is just outside Manchester.

Their second album, *The Beast Inside*, is an astounding derivative concoction of psychedelic retro-pop, the psychodance hinges on a Sooty-south organ sound, toneless Morrissey-influenced vocals, and the mandatory jangle of guitar. Despite some appealing choruses it is a formula which rapidly pales. Whatever else the indie-dance crossover movement may be remembered for, it will certainly not be innovation.

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RECORDS

Rock of middle-agers

Joe Jackson's *Laughter and Lust* (Virgin America VUSLP34) Inspiral Carpe: *The Beast Inside* (Mute DUNG14CD) Nine Below Zero: *On the Road Again* (China WOL1014)

ONE OF ENGLAND'S more durable exports, Joe Jackson has nevertheless suffered a decline since his days as the New Wave eminence grise of spivrock. His last album, *Blaze of Glory*, sold respectably in America, his country of residence since 1983, but barely scraped into the Top 40 over here.

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James Kelman, angry literary champion of Britain's poor, talks to Neroli Lawson about his work

Burning view of northern streets

If you are not sleeping rough tonight, read James Kelman. If you do not know what it is like to punch people gratuitously in pubs, or go out drinking and bungle it something rotten, the same applies. The author of *The Burn*, published on Monday, is striding towards an angry new realism in British fiction.

Every human day has its own small story of struggle. So too do Kelman's characters. His books — such as the novels *A Disaffection* (for which he was on the 1989 Booker shortlist) and *A Chancer*, or the short story collections *Not, not while the giro* and *Greyhound for Breakfast* — are peopled by loners, connected at best to one or two others. Their bodies have been broken, eaten into, decayed by filth and poverty. You barely know their names, where they are or what they look like.

The stories are short and not much happens. A woman walks into a room. A man desires her. She walks out. The full-blown drama takes place in his head. But however extreme the situation, you identify with the hero. This is what makes Kelman remarkable, though what people usually pick out is the number of expletives on each page, and his unusual fictional landscape of the DHSS, the betting shop, the matinee, the park, the bedsitter.

James Kelman is softer and smaller than the angry Glaswegian I imagined. But his skin and yellowing fingers look harassed; he is worn by work and by nicotine which have left an industrial film over him. The eyes are faintly bloodshot, his wiry hair is shot through with grey streaks.

Drumchapel, a Glasgow housing estate, is where he grew up. His father was a frame-maker, his mother a teacher. On Saturdays the womenfolk struggled home from town carrying the week's shopping. At the junior library, Kelman read "cowboy stories with psychological insight by Louis Lamour". School was "irrelevant". So at 15 he left, in search of a "man's wage".

He moved through cities — Glasgow, London, Manchester — working in asbestos and copper factories, mostly with immigrants. "Part of your basic skills was to avoid serious injury every 30 minutes." There is no anger here. He is stating a fact. He played football "dinner time" with fellow workers. "I listened to the old guys telling stories — Ukrainians, Georgians, Poles, and a few Irish. The different cultures and prejudices have stuck with me."

He met a girl from South Wales who was living in a Catholic girls' hostel in London. They married; their two daughters are now twenty and twenty-one. Periodically Kelman would chuck in the job, using the wages to get back to Glasgow. "I enjoyed being unemployed as long as I had money for cigarettes and the occasional food. I never need something to occupy my time."

He went to the library and also



Author James Kelman: "The feeling was I was going to be doing it; I had become aware I was going to do it a year or two before. Then it was time to make a start. So I went out and bought a big notebook."

followed "ordinary pursuits like public swimming baths, gambling, football, the DHSS." His writing, he explains, was not observation. "It was my culture. These things are exciting parts of the culture of the majority of people in this country. In English literature it only exists as a sociological treatise." Here comes the anger. The unemployed, Kelman feels, are given a raw deal in literature. They are "never whole human beings. It's a behaviourist perception of these people: you only see them moving, you are never told what they are thinking."

Kelman warms up his wrath, calling on "existentialism, phenomenology and psychology" to shore up a culture that is "prescribed or marginalised". The enemy is "the Anglo-American canon, imperialism, colonialism". I feel bludgeoned by these broadsides. The anger in his stories is by contrast, particular and human; it is accessible and it invigorates.

Was it hard to start writing? "No. The feeling was that I was going to be doing it. I had become aware I was going to do it a year or two before." Then "it was time to make

a start. So I went out and bought a big notebook." This quiet surrender to inevitability is a feature of his characters' lives too. He feels no automatic solidarity with other writers. "How long can you spend talking about Tipton?"

Back to Glasgow, and to work on the buses. Now, at Philip Hobsbawm's groups, he met writers who shared his concerns: Tom Leonard, Alastair Gray, Liz Lochhead. Down South, this cluster of names prompts talk of a Scottish renaissance. In fact Scotland and its literature have always been there.

Sometimes England chooses to ignore them.

I thought I was meeting a writer who, in post-Thatcher Britain, gives a voice to the voiceless. What I find instead is much more arresting. It is not about class or opportunity. It is a confirmation that, to the English, Scotland really is a foreign country. It has its own distinct philosophical and literary concerns. Kelman defines these as being "to do with the self-centredness of character and existential domination. There is no God voice whatsoever. You can see it back in James Hogg" (whose 19th-century work *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* serves as an apt summary for Kelman's oeuvre). It was Dostoevsky, Gogol, Balzac and Camus that Kelman was reading at libraries, "European writers [who] can loosely be grouped under the term 'existential tradition'." The allegiances of Elizabethan times still hold true, then; Scotland looks not southwards to England but reaches out to France, Germany and Russia.

Then on to Huxley, Heidegger and Goethe. But this is no border-country Byron in billowing lawn shirt: Kelman claims his position is logical not Romantic. He writes non-fiction about "different things... an essay on Chomsky and the commonsense philosophical tradition in Scotland, okay?" The "okay?" means "now shut up". Kelman is certainly a thinker. So why the slight diffidence when he talks of these hard-hitting names? Is it a side-effect of the Glasgow brogue, or is he faintly nervous about appropriating them to himself?

Today, in his airy Glasgow tenement flat, the computer will be on all day. "If I'm not out the house then I'm working. I may work through the night." "Out the house", refers to "groups and things". His position is "decentralised, anarchist, anti-parliamentarian" and includes "friends in the black community, involved on the line".

His title, *The Burn*, has a number of meanings and he enjoys this ambiguity. To Kelman it is suggestive of gambling. "I can imagine Paul Newman or Robert Redford using it in *The Sting*," he says. Will he always have stories to tell? "My method is that you can't have stories. I sit down and jump in. You just start characters moving." This production line has impressive results. Here, in his eleventh work, he is coming together and ever nearer his own true North. Kelman is teasing the form of the short story in most provocative ways. *The Burn* is hard going at first. But it is very worth it.

● *The Burn* by James Kelman is published by Secker & Warburg on Monday, April 29, price £13.99, simultaneously with the same author's *Bardie & Baird* and other plays, price £14.99 hardback, £5.99 paperback. Kelman is reading his work at Waterstone's bookshop, 121-125 Charing Cross Road, London, at 7.30pm tonight.

BRIEFING

Plays' ground

WHILE other regional theatres struggle for survival, the Traverse in Edinburgh has secured its future. Agreements signed this week enable work to begin fitting out the company's new theatre, which will be in the basement of the £40 million Scottish Financial Centre that the developers Scottish Metropolitan have built next to the Usher Hall. Edinburgh District Council is providing the £3.4 million needed to fit out the theatre, and the company expects to move in to what it claims is "Britain's first ever purpose built theatre for new writing" by summer next year. Is the company worried by having a subterranean home? "No, it will be nothing like the Barbican Pit, if that's what you mean," said a spokesman.

Brown's back

AFTER his unfortunate brush with the law put him behind bars, America's "Godfather of Soul", James Brown, has been off the scene for a couple of years. But he will be in London on an apt date — Independence Day, July 4 — with a show at Wembley Arena. Now 62, he is not quite so storming a

performer as in his famous 1960s concerts at New York's Apollo. But his high standing, even among those not born when he first began his career, is likely to be further boosted by the imminent release of a five-CD career retrospective, said to include a previously unissued ten-minute version of the definitive Brown anthem, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag".

More Arabian nights

IN TRIBUTE to the late Sir David Lean, *Lawrence of Arabia* is to be shown at the Prince Charles Cinema, off Leicester Square, for a limited season from today. Lean's 1962 epic, trimmed for cinematic release, was restored in 1989 to its original grandiose length; this is the version that will be screened.

Potted feature

DENNIS Potter, purveyor of sexy television drama for the intelligentsia, is to direct his first feature film, which he has also written. *Secret Friends* will be the first fruit of Potter's own newly-formed company, Whistling Gypsy Productions, and its plot has a reassuringly Potteresque ring: "a chilling exploration of the disturbing relationship between a man and the young woman he feels impelled to murder". Alan Bates and Gina Bellman will star.

Mozart unstuck

SATED with Mozart in this bicentenary year? So is the British composer Michael Finnissy whose trio, which is acronyms entitled *WAM*, has its first performance at the Prague Spring Festival next month. The



Potter: to direct his first feature, *Secret Friends*

piece is composed, the composer explains, of a "myriad fragments of Mozart. It is a montage, or possibly the result of bizarre archaeology, a glueing together of fragments whose original design and purpose is no longer discernible nor fully understood."

Last Chance...

Barbara Lebow's subtle and moving play *My Lovely...* Shyama Maidel has not caught the general public's taste, and tomorrow will see the last performance at the Ambassadors (071-836 6111). Holocaust plays may be difficult to sell, but this one found an original way to draw present and past together. It gave the young survivor (Anita Dobson), bemused by boisterous New York in 1946, a family of vanished relatives to people the stage around her.

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Philip Howard

No holding the King's English

Despite the pronouncements of princes, our language has never stood still

The Prince of Wales shoots from the hip, sometimes like a grouchy fogey with a blunderbuss, hoping to pepper an expert or three. But Charles hit the bull's-eye for once with his trumpet call for Shakespeare on the school curriculum (except that it already is). Shakespeare is one of the foundation texts of English, along with the Authorised Version and the Prayer Book. You can find anything you want in Shakespeare. He is a lake in which crocodiles can swim and sucking doves can paddle. He is a good authority for refuting one of the sillier bees in the prince's feathers: that the English language is going to the dogs, and that the young cannot write or talk proper any more. In Shakespeare you can find the evidence that grammar and spelling and pronunciation have changed, as they must, continually since he wrote. The notion that there was once a golden age of English pronunciation and grammar from which we have sadly declined is princely fogies' poppycock. New generations constantly remake the language for their new needs. Take pronunciation.

What word is always pronounced wrong in English? The only one I know is "wrong". Pronunciations change as continually as grammar, vocabulary, idiom, and all the other departments of language. If we could hear Elizabeth I, Shakespeare, and even Dr Johnson speaking today, they would sound to us like poor players mouthing Mummeret.

One of the changes that gets farthest up the noses of those who were taught to speak proper is a shift in accent. Here are some examples of these

Coriolanus: "And power, unto itself most commendable, / Hath not a tomb so evident, as a chair / Textual what it hath done." In each of these examples, the tug of the metre shows that commendable was to be pronounced with the stress on the first syllable. Two centuries later, the stress had shifted forward to the second syllable, so that Dr Johnson noted in his entry on the word in his dictionary: "Anciently accented on the first syllable."

Johnson had recognised that change is inevitable and continuous in pronunciation, as in the other parts of language: "It remains that we regard what we cannot cure." But he too had his hobby-horses of correct pronunciation. He always pronounced the word *heard*, as if spelt with a double e, *heerd*, instead of sounding it *here*, as Boswell recorded was most usually done. Perhaps this was partly a hangover from Sam's early Staffordshire pronunciation, but, characteristically, he had a more bombastic explanation when challenged: "He said, his reason was, that if it were pronounced *here*, there would be a single exception from the English pronunciation of the syllable *ear*, and he thought it better not to have that exception."

Many of Johnson's campaigns for proper English were lost long ago in the shifting sands of time. He tickled Boswell for using the phrase to *make money*: "Don't you see the impropriety of it? To make money is to coin it; you say get money." No you don't any more, prince. He was prompt to repress colloquial barbarisms, such as *pleading myself for line for department* or *branch*, as in the civil line, the banking line. And he was particularly indignant against the use of the word *idea* in the sense of notion or opinion. As a sound classical scholar, Johnson knew that *idea* can signify only something of which an image can be formed in the mind. That battle is long lost. We are dealing with English here, not Plato. An idea has come to mean a notion, opinion, or any old thingamajig, because that is the way English-speakers have decided to go.

If Sam Johnson got his pronunciation wrong and lost his battles for linguistic purity, there is no hope of us lesser epigoni doing any better. We can carry on putting the stress where we were taught to until our pronunciation sticks out like the Bass Rock. If we persevere in saying *heard* or *propled* then, we are showing off, and declaring that we know better than the rest of mankind. Benjamin Franklin advised: "Write with the learned, pronounce with the vulgar." It depends a bit on who you are writing to, and how vulgar. But to take a stand for proper pronunciation is to stand on sand as the tide comes in, as one of the prince's predecessors demonstrated 12 centuries ago.

This war of the accents has been going on since the beginning of English. For example, Shakespeare evidently pronounced commendable with the stress on the first syllable, because of recessive accent. Claudius: "This sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet." Graziano: "Thanks, I faith, for silence is only commendable / In a neat's tongue dried and a maid not vendible." Audifius in

or branch, as in the civil line, the banking line. And he was particularly indignant against the use of the word *idea* in the sense of notion or opinion. As a sound classical scholar, Johnson knew that *idea* can signify only something of which an image can be formed in the mind. That battle is long lost. We are dealing with English here, not Plato. An idea has come to mean a notion, opinion, or any old thingamajig, because that is the way English-speakers have decided to go.

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...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Among the three or four things I have never understood, prime, beyond question, is the hanging basket. There are so many aspects of it not to understand, moreover, that it is almost impossible to know where to begin trying not to think about them. And now, God help me, a new one has come along, more baffling, perhaps, than all the rest.

Traditionally, if one were bent on getting to the bottom of something, one would start at the top, as with man's ceaseless quest for this and that. If I were musing on intergalactic hardware, or tea-making alarm-clocks, or improvements to the putter, that is where I should kick off. I should identify the yearning, and, taking the scalpel in my right hand, begin to poke about in it.

But what can it possibly be that drives the human animal to climb up a ladder, hang a bowl of mud on it, fill this bowl with shiny new vasastrums, pelargoniums, and lobelias, and then come down the ladder again to watch the stuff he has just planted begin dying?

It cannot be hortiphilia, even if the word existed, that drives him; who that cared for plants would so unconsciously stuff them within confines designed first to embarrass them, and then to kill? Embarrass, because what are these poor bloody things doing half-way up a house, check-by-jowl in prosthic dock, if not look-

ing ridiculous? Certainly, they are not looking lovely: had God intended gardens to grow this way, he would have given Adam a Black & Decker. From which we may also deduce that the ladder cannot be driven by devotional urge, either; or, come to that, good taste.

There is, I suppose, an outside chance that man's motivation is buried somewhere in that unique and wondrous boon, his sense of humour. Given that — for a brief period, at least — he will trudge back and forth through his house with his ladder and his watering-can on the daily basis laid down in his new leaflet, it is just possible that he feels all this effort to be worth while, provided enough visitors to his step end up with molten John Innes falling on their heads. Few of us, after all, have not toyed with the idea of the bucket on the door; Billy Bunter has much to answer for.

Or there is atavism. There is always atavism. Like you, I have never really known what the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were, except, of course, one of the ancient world's seven wonders, and in order to qualify for a going like that, it is on the cards that what Nebuchadnezzar commissioned — he had the money — was a wire basket half a mile across, attached to the front wall of his palace by the sort of chains you could get in those days and containing not only tea million trailing fuchsias but a wealth of stone penguins, decorated marble, ornamental ponds, and a barbeque gazon where the royal

Where the public has no power to choose, authority tends to run amok — as the government never tires of repeating. Preventing this in the public services this must mean breaking the control of monopolistic professions. Open the school system to choice and you weaken the power of teaching orthodoxy.

The breaking of cartels in the social services, much more than in consumer goods, gives ordinary people control over their own lives. Now that the government has begun to dismantle the centralised command structure of health and education, we should look very hard at those areas in which authority is still held by impenetrable, self-validating professions. Social workers and their employers are due for just such examination.

We have less tolerance now for groups with unchallenged authority, especially when they seem to oppose mainstream values. In the case of education, parents are reacting not only against teaching methods which fail to stretch children, but against the vision of a uniformly egalitarian society in which excellence is seen as divisive.

Whether or not one agrees with their theories, what is at issue is the way social workers are free to

act as agents working to establish a new social order. This self-appointed, prescriptive power can become a crusade carried on virtually unchecked (except by occasional bursts of media criticism).

Where the recipients of services have no power of choice, the self-governing, self-licensing professions can become wildly out of touch with public opinion. Being responsible for their own training procedures and rules of entry, it is easy for them to develop an inbred culture. Ideologically acceptable views become entrenched by being handed down through training institutes and enforced by employers who have been through the same professional mill themselves.

Discussion becomes absurdly incestuous, as prestige within the profession comes to depend upon

developing more and more extreme twists in the orthodoxy. A glance at the texts of educational or social work theory reveals a literature as surreal as *Alice in Wonderland*. Infiltration by activists may help to explain the overt politicisation of the approach, but it is only part of the story.

The specialism of professional training itself increases the likelihood that arcane ideology will flourish. But what is most disturbing for those on the receiving end of this theoretical excess is that there is no mechanism of public control over the fads and excesses of the profession until it is too late: until some outrageous incident brings the whole trend to public attention. Whatever ideas are in vogue in professional circles can be plugged

into practice with immediate and uncritical fervour. (The fashion for detecting ritual child abuse may well be an example.) But what is the alternative? Populism is a crude tool for reforming professional lobbies, even if they have become dangerously arrogant. Not every controversy can be settled by an appeal to the sentiments of the bus queue.

There is no obvious analogue for the market here. In social work, which has a brief which combines caring and policing, individual choice cannot come into play. Only a firm legal structure can keep any check on the arbitrariness of professional power. Where there is no choice, accountability must be enforced.

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I hope the judicial review of the Orkney child abuse cases will lead to the establishment of an apparatus for public vigilance over a profession which has the power to create so much unhappiness. Professional mystification combined with an amateurish failure to exercise control has got us into a sorry state. A public aware that it need not remain passive in the face of authority should be able to find some solution.

Social workers' excesses must be restrained by law if necessary, argues Janet Daley

A caring code for an uncaring profession

Salesmen are back, peddling their arms as 'combat proven', writes Anthony Sampson. Can we stop them?

John Major's determination to control arms sales to prevent the threat from Saddam Hussein of the future is a promising sign. But will it mark a serious change from the traditional hubbub of all Western nations, which deplore the danger of selling arms while competing as strongly as ever to sell their own? Already the arms salesmen are back in the fray, peddling weapons that have been "combat proven" during the Gulf war.

There is now a unique opportunity to reach a global agreement to control arms sales. The arming of Saddam was the most flagrant case since the second world war of the irresponsibility of arms-selling to a potential enemy and has outraged public opinion. If it cannot be controlled now, it probably never will be. But bold and consistent political leadership is needed to convert outrage into effective action. Is Mr Major — or any other Western leader — prepared to take up this challenge?

Mr Major has rightly begun with two fundamental points. The first is that the five members of the Security Council, who voted unanimously to attack Saddam Hussein, were the five nations which did most to arm him. Logically, if they can agree to go to war, they should be able to agree to stop arming potential enemies.

Mr Major's second point is the need for a UN arms register to keep track of the kind of crazy arms-sales which built up Saddam Hussein's arsenal, and which in another two years could have made him impregnable. It is a familiar idea, already put forward by Mrs Brundland, the former prime minister of Norway, and Edward Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, and endorsed by the British Liberal



Democrats. It is none the worse for that, and the monitoring of arms selling is clearly a prerequisite of control.

In the past, such proposals have been frustrated by the confrontations of the cold war, and by commercial competition between Western nations. And the Middle East, with its combination of oil money and political instability, has been an irresistible arena for arms-sellers. But today a combination of changes has brought arms-control within reach.

First, the Gulf war has revealed the superiority of American technology. This has enabled Washington to make the running, and has discredited both French and Soviet equipment.

Second, the French, who have long been the most cynical arms-sellers, are now seriously rethinking their policies after their disastrous role in arming Saddam and their poor showing in the Gulf war. At the French socialist conference earlier this month, three prominent leaders — Michel Rocard, Laurent

Fabius and Pierre Mauroy — all put control of arms sales near the top of their party agenda.

The European powers in Nato (who have long competed to sell weapons abroad to subsidise their own arms industries) are having to co-ordinate their weapons systems more closely, while their arms companies are forming consortia across frontiers.

The Israelis, whose economy is strained to the limit by the huge costs of absorbing Soviet Jews, are looking for a regional agreement to avoid a costly new arms-race while ensuring their own security.

The major donors of aid to developing countries, including the World Bank and Japan (the biggest national donor of all), are at last facing up to the need to make aid conditional upon restrictions on arms spending.

Linking aid to restraints on arms spending — which has the strong support of a former president of the World Bank, Robert McNamara — could prove the

most far-reaching of these developments, for many of the biggest arms-buyers and arms-producers in the third world are dependent on foreign aid. Among these is China, which has been one of the most dangerous suppliers of weapons to the Gulf, but which needs its foreign aid far more than its revenue from arms sales.

The developing countries themselves have always opposed Western restraints on their arms-buying, complaining about neo-imperialist paternalism which discriminates against them while leaving the major powers free to arm.

But now that the two superpowers are themselves reducing their arsenals, the developing countries have less reason to complain: that there are two standards — and many of them have been ruined by their own arms-buying.

These new opportunities for restricting arms sales present a special challenge to the United States, as the major supplier of new technologies and the most

influential power in the Middle East. Unfortunately, however, Washington has so far revealed a striking lack of political leadership. George Bush has been ambivalent: he has talked about the need for controls, but he has also asked for more export credits to enable arms companies to sell to less prosperous developing countries. He has shown little desire to confront the arms companies, led by General Dynamics and Raytheon (the maker of Patriot missiles), which are pressing for new markets for their combat-proven missiles. In the meantime, the Democrats feel inhibited from advocating arms control, because they have been heavily criticised for having voted against the war with Iraq.

There is thus a special need and opportunity for British leadership; but the British have their own embarrassments. The Conservatives are reluctant to face up to Britain's over-zealous arms-selling in the past or to the now-and-then attitude of the Department of Trade and Industry, which allowed exporters to mix up military with civilian technology, and to export weapons to one country knowing that they would go on to another.

Like the Democrats, Labour politicians are nervous of being branded as pacifists, and are vulnerable to the arms lobbies, which have a disproportionate influence in many Labour constituencies. So it has been left to the Liberals to make a firm commitment to campaign for arms control — until this week. But John Major now seems to have taken up the challenge. It remains to be seen whether he will turn it into a serious campaign, which would antagonise some of his colleagues and party financiers.

Only a sustained and patient diplomatic effort can achieve a lasting agreement, but it must be launched now, to take advantage of the surge of public opinion and the conjunction of opportunities round the world. It will be tragic if this chance is not seized, for next time the West has to fight an enemy which it has armed, it might lose.

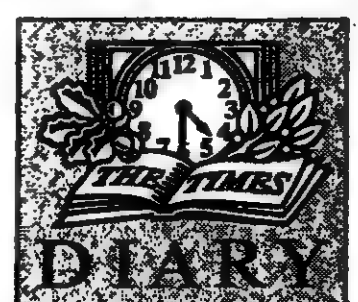
Anthony Sampson is the author of *The Arms Bazaar* (Coronet).

Blackening the green initiative

To its deep embarrassment yesterday, the government's latest green initiative backfired before it had even been launched. Michael Heseltine and Peter Lilley are in the process of setting up a task-force of businessmen to co-ordinate a more environmentally friendly industrial policy. In recent weeks the two ministers have written to most of Britain's leading companies asking for nominations, which they had hoped to announce next month. But to the undisguised annoyance of both ministries, news has leaked that the government is to ask John Evans, chairman of Shell UK, to chair the group.

When told of the choice yesterday, the green lobby was appalled. Only last November, Shell hunkered the campaign, which killed off "the Big Green", the voter proposition in California which would have halted the felling of Californian redwood forests, limited offshore oil and gas exploitation, and taxed oil companies to provide a \$500 million fund to fight oil spills. Shell spent \$608,000 defeating the proposition, saying it was "concerned" about the potential impact on business.

Closer to home, Shell has been asked by Friends of the Earth to pay the cost of cleaning up hundreds of acres of farmland around the River Newlyn in west Cornwall. The river is contaminated with aldrin, a dangerous pesticide, which was banned by the government last May, and which was manufactured solely by Shell Chemicals. Signs have been posted along the riverbank warning people not to eat fish or oysters caught in the river. Naturalists also believe the pesticide has been a major contributor to the demise



of the area's otter population. A spokesman for Shell dismissed the attacks. "Any oil company with refineries is going to know what this task-force should be about. We have more opportunity to put things right than those on the sidelines with high ideals."

● *Kitty Kelley has admitted that she got it wrong in her now notorious biography of Nancy Reagan, which is published in Britain this week. "I'm wrong. I think it's a bit of sloppiness and I apologise," astonished listeners heard her say on BBC Radio One last night. But before the Reagans call off the lawyers, they should know that the admission of error related only to the title of the book: "Nancy with the laughing face". The book refers to "Nancy with the smiling face". The mistake is odd, for it has been pointed out to her by her own staff.*

Speaking of princes

Prince Charles's views on education are to receive a lofty endorsement in the House of Lords in the maiden speech of Baroness James of Holland Park. Better known as the doyen of crime novels as P.D. James, the baroness is currently writing a rallying call to the Prince's cause. "When I went to school," says the creator of the elegant detective Adam Dalglish, "we were taught to use English succinctly, elegantly and ac-

curately. Prince Charles is quite correct and I share all his views. I will be delighted to devote my maiden speech to the subject."

But the baroness, who was in the Lords yesterday listening to a debate on animal welfare, has not fixed a date. "It will be soon, but I want to wait until I get the feel of the place first," she says.

Classical thrash

Jimmi Hendrix must be pining in his grave at the news that *Purple Haze* is about to join Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* in the classical ballet repertoire. The young British choreographer William Tuckett describes the work, which the Birmingham Royal Ballet is due to stage next month as "a thrash classical ballet". Thrash? "It is a word to describe a mixture of heavy metal and punk music," he explains helpfully. Five dancers will abandon their tights and tutus for Madonna-style bodices as they trace their classical movements to the beat of the man who was known in the late 1960s as "the wild man of rock".

"The ballet is a celebration of dance and dancers and not a statement against convention," says a ballet spokeswoman somewhat unconvincedly. The programme will go under the title



License My Roving Hands, a line from John Donne's "Elegie: On his Mistress Going to Bed". Traditionalists might be advised to ensure that they are sitting next to someone who knows well.

Hurd's little flutter

Flags are flying again at the Foreign Office, thanks to Douglas Hurd. In recent months the foreign secretary became irked when gazing out of his Whitehall window to see that alone among his Cabinet colleagues he headed a department without a working flagpole. He fired off letters in all directions demanding to know why. The reply from the Treasury was succinct and to the point: the flagpole was rotten, and no funds were available for a replacement.

But the Treasury's annoyance, Hurd decided to pull rank. He raised the matter at the highest level, and funds for a new pole were miraculously found.

But the foreign secretary was not satisfied. He could not help noticing how limply the flag hung at the mast, comparing unfavourably to the flags flying fluttering impressively above the Kremlin, courtesy of a wind-machine. If the Russians can do it so can we, Hurd decided, so he wrote to David Mellor, the chief secretary to the Treasury, demanding a wind-machine of his own. Yesterday he received the Treasury's reply. Nothing doing, the practitioners of the dismal science have told him. But they had one recommendation. "There is so much hot air expended at the FO already, that an air-duct could be used to circulate it in the direction of the flag."

● An unfortunate result from the men's team event in the world table-tennis championships currently taking place in China, Japan: "Group D, United States w.o. (walk over) Kuwait."



SMOK

Mikhail Gorbachev has the tactical skills tested as new correspondents were asked to join the plenary session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union yesterday. Mr Gorbachev offered to secretary. The offer was secret. The offer was the more remarkable was the earlier this week by Mr Gorbachev, by the president, Federation, Boris Yeltsin, of eight other republics, of tough talking and the at turning point.

There are, however, 200 million. Threatening to Gorbachev's favourite point. Opposition to his point. Opposition was not a party leader was not as suggested. This central of had no power to oust the was unlikely even to try.

This week's plenary, a power more than the one which would need yet another pi hierarchy. His resort to this level cadres advocating a down than the one which forgotten has actually taken to Mr Gorbachev as Soviet.

The Soviet president can so easily against Mr Yeltsin president left the Commun has retained the fickle countrymen and now enjoy Mr Gorbachev needs Mr break the new wave of strike Mr Yeltsin becomes time. Once the Russian Fe direct presidential election Yeltsin's claim to demote Russia will be undeniable. But Mr Gorbachev stuff.

power, however loosely, T offered to the nine republic he invited to his dacha I something for everyone. T end to strikes and civil di Gorbachev wanted, but a which would have damage The same spirit of comp the clauses dealing with

DOCT

Some diseases can be prew that affects us all — marial cured. Those who give a avoid contracting lung can will die of some other bodi decade or two later. But whi be stamped out, both the length of life can be increas seminar this weekend, mini will discuss how this gain o within available public fun

The National Health introduced last month, a more choice to those who Local health service manag incentive, not to do the b hospital consultants but w their patients. The internat increase the amount of e directing money towards e But cash will always be invisible hand of the mark the value judgments invol these £30 billion health

These choices used to b hoc way. Doctors with the because they worked in hig ties, tended to win the mo has always been rationed, waiting lists, sometimes t they cannot be treated at a will make these choices a All the more reason for he use a systematic method who will and who will not n

The government's new discussed at the weekend, a William Waldegrave, the wants to reduce avoidabl cancer, heart disease and medicine — screening a people not to smoke and n

JOLI

For Dr Shoichi Okinaga of University, today promise exciting day. He lunche College, Oxford, where elected him an honorary a ranks. A car will then w Edmund's College, Cambri a sumptuous dinner, a sim esteem of the fellows will b

What singular academic evoked this unprecedented Okinaga is a fully quali medicine, but it has to be s none can identify his contri ology nor bear witness to healing powers. The fellows decision have been moved devotion to an internati education, a belief which ha form in his donation of

In return Dr Okinaga has right to nominate six postg priately qualified) to Wadha number to St Edmund's, a prerogatives to secure close the British and Japanese.

Traditionalists will doub pollution of the stream of i Mammon. But there is not choosing honorary fellows o grounds. The present fellows



SMOKE-FILLED DACHAS

Mikhail Gorbachev has this week found his tactical skills tested as never before. Western correspondents were agog at the melodrama of the plenary session of the central committee of the Communist party, where Mr Gorbachev yesterday rounded on his critics and offered to resign as general secretary. The offer was quickly rejected. More remarkable was the document signed earlier this week by Mr Gorbachev as Soviet president, by the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, and by the leaders of eight other republics. Mr Gorbachev's tough talking and the apparent reconciliation with his rival may prove to be a turning point.

There are, however, grounds for scepticism. Threatening to resign is Mr Gorbachev's favourite means of gaining a point. Opposition to his continuation as party leader was not as serious as rumour suggested. This central committee plenum had no power to oust the general secretary; it was unlikely even to try.

This week's plenum, stormy as it was, proved no more than that Mr Gorbachev may need yet another purge of the party hierarchy. His resort to threats was proof, if proof were needed, that there are middle-level cadres advocating a tougher clamp-down than the one which (let it not be forgotten) has actually taken place over the last six months. But they offer no alternative to Mr Gorbachev as Soviet leader.

The Soviet president cannot play this card so easily against Mr Yeltsin. The Russian president left the Communist party last year, has retained the fickle esteem of his countrymen and now enjoys respect abroad. Mr Gorbachev needs Mr Yeltsin's help to break the new wave of strikes. He also knows that Mr Yeltsin becomes stronger all the time. Once the Russian Federation has held direct presidential elections in June, Mr Yeltsin's claim to democratic leadership in Russia will be undeniable.

But Mr Gorbachev still holds the reins of power, however loosely. The deal which he offered to the nine republican leaders whom he invited to his dacha last Tuesday had something for everyone. There would be an end to strikes and civil disobedience, as Mr Gorbachev wanted, but no ban on rallies, which would have damaged Mr Yeltsin.

The same spirit of compromise informed the clauses dealing with the constitutional

conflict between the Union and the republics. The latter would embrace a new Union treaty (good for Mr Gorbachev). An "enlarged role" for the republics (good for Mr Yeltsin) would be enshrined six months later in a new Soviet constitution, ratified by the Congress of People's Deputies.

The six remaining republics, whose declarations of independence are not recognised by the Kremlin and which were not invited to this gathering, were conceded the "right" to decide for themselves about the new treaty, but no details were agreed. The text says nothing about a new mechanism for leaving the Union. It states only that republics which refused to sign the new treaty would lose their preferential treatment in the supply of materials and energy.

Finally, the document says, should come the "election of the organs of Soviet power". This appears to hasten the day when the Communist-dominated Congress must submit itself to fresh elections, and when Mr Gorbachev's presidency itself may be submitted for the first time to the free electoral judgment of the people. This is good news.

Outside the Moscow bearpit, this week's events may have changed little. Strikers declared yesterday that they would only return to work if Mr Yeltsin personally appealed to them: they do not trust the deal that emerged from the dacha in Novoye Ogaryevo. In Lithuania, Soviet paratroops carried out more raids yesterday. Discontent seethes across the steppe, which are as indifferent to Moscow politics as the incompetent Soviet bureaucracy, which is flooding the economy with worthless roubles and is now facing open revolt in cities from Leningrad to Minsk.

Not tactical gymnastics in Russian dachas but a full reform programme is required to rectify the worst Soviet slump in living memory. A compromise between two camps is not such a programme. But it suggests that Mr Gorbachev is not strong enough to shoulder the man who may one day supplant him. The Soviet president shows no sign of abandoning the Communist party, but stepping down his hardliners will do him no harm in the country. As for Mr Yeltsin, he has been given a share of responsibility for the Soviet economy — and blame for its failings. He should now press his advantage. For him there can be no turning back.

DOCTORING THE TARGETS

Some diseases can be prevented, but the one that affects us all — mortality — can never be cured. Those who give up smoking and avoid contracting lung cancer in their studies will die of some other bodily malfunction a decade or two later. But while disease cannot be stamped out, both the quality and the length of life can be increased. At a Chequers seminar this weekend, ministers and doctors will discuss how this gain can be maximised within available public funds.

The National Health Service reforms, introduced last month, will help to give more choice to those who use health care. Local health service managers now have an incentive, not to do the best by their local hospital consultants but to do the best by their patients. The internal market should increase the amount of care available, by directing money towards efficient hospitals. But cash will always be short, and the invisible hand of the market cannot make all the value judgments involved in allocating an annual £30 billion health budget.

These choices used to be made in an *ad hoc* way. Doctors with the most clout, often because they worked in high-profile specialties, tended to win the most money. Health has always been rationed, usually through waiting lists, sometimes by telling people they cannot be treated at all. The new system will make these choices more transparent. All the more reason for health managers to use a systematic method for determining who will and who will not receive treatment.

The government's new targets, to be discussed at the weekend, are the easy cases. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, wants to reduce avoidable, early deaths from cancer, heart disease and strokes. Preventive medicine — screening and encouraging people not to smoke and to eat healthily —

can make a difference. More than 30,000 people die of lung cancer in the United Kingdom each year. Studies at York University have found that counselling by GPs is the most cost-effective way of preventing lung cancer deaths.

But there is no pressure group representing those now apparently fit who will die of kidney failure or heart attacks in ten years' time. Left to itself, the market would not throw up disease prevention. A certain amount of central dirigisme is needed. General practitioners are already given financial incentives to screen for cervical cancer, conduct immunisations and run health education clinics. They now need to discuss healthy living with all their patients, not just those who demonstrate their motivation by turning up to a clinic.

Targets will be useful to those who have to decide the hard cases. To see if targets are being reached, outcomes have to be measured. At the moment, little research is done on how well the NHS meets its objectives, or indeed on what those objectives are. Health economists have devised various theoretical ways of assessing treatments, which calculate how much they improve people's quality of life and for how many years.

A hip replacement that allows a wheelchair-bound person to walk painlessly again may be judged more useful than an expensive cancer drug that might give a terminally ill patient an extra month to live. Yet until these two treatments can be measured against the same scale, managers can only follow their hunches. Mr Waldegrave must devote money to measuring what is most worth doing. Only then can he, the health service and the public know that they are spending public money wisely.

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS

For Dr Shoichi Okinaga of Japan's Teikyo University, today promises to be a most exciting day. He lunches at Wadham College, Oxford, where the fellows have elected him an honorary addition to their ranks. A car will then whisk him to St Edmund's College, Cambridge, where, over a sumptuous dinner, a similar mark of the esteem of the fellows will be granted him.

What singular academic achievement has evoked this unprecedented recognition? Dr Okinaga is a fully qualified doctor of medicine, but it has to be said that nobody can name a wonder drug he has invented, nor can he identify his contribution to physiology nor bear witness to his miraculous healing powers. The fellows in reaching their decision have been moved by Dr Okinaga's devotion to an internationalist view of education, a belief which has taken concrete form in his donation of £4.5 million to Wadham and £1.5 million to St Edmund's.

In return Dr Okinaga has been given the right to nominate six postgraduates (appropriately qualified) to Wadham, and a similar number to St Edmund's, and certain other prerogatives to secure closer links between the British and Japanese.

are led by the Duke of Norfolk, among whose manifold virtues intellectual prowess is not the chief. The shift represented by Dr Okinaga's elevation is a different one: from old money to new money, from aristocracy to plutocracy, from insularity to the global perspective; in short, progress.

A more challenging question might be why the colleges do not go the whole hog. Each would publish a tariff so much for an honorary degree, more for a doctorate, more still for a fellowship. (Similar proposals have sometimes been made for the sale of national honours, to benefit the Exchequer.) Institutions which charged too much would find that others attracted the cash, the academic facilities, the students and the acclaim. Casualties there would be, but the market would settle to a felicitous equilibrium eventually.

It will not happen because honour is a delicate flower. The colleges know they may go only so far. If honour be bought and sold, who will honour it (or pay for it)? Falstaff's honour might not set a leg, might indeed be vulnerable to detraction. But a veil of generous bluff must stay in place. Mr Okinaga's fellowship is presented as a reward only for his merit, and he will wonder at the genteel inscrutability of *Academia Britannica*. May more of his countrymen likewise grace our seats of learning.

The pot, the kettle and the Institute

From Mr Philip Middleton

Sir, Introspection and self-criticism do not appear to be British characteristics. It is perhaps unsurprising, therefore, to read that the Institute of Directors finds the government so much to blame for the present financial climate (reports, April 24).

Many people living in Britain in 1979 would have been as surprised as the chairman of British Petroleum, Mr Robert Horton, if they had been able to see into the future of 1991. But they would have seen it coming by 1983 or 1984, in a way that the Institute of Directors apparently did not.

It has always seemed to me that Mrs Thatcher must have been deeply disappointed by the very limited response her courageous attempts to reform the economy drew from management. A truly entrepreneurial establishment would have thrown themselves into reinvestment in technology and research with enthusiasm. The British management hierarchy threw themselves with equal enthusiasm into higher wages and much, much higher salaries and bonuses. Bonuses for what, one might ask.

If this country ends up with a Labour government in a year's time it will not be the fault of the Tories. It will be the fault of industry, who have taken too much from the country over the past 12 years and put too little back.

Yours etc,
PHILIP MIDDLETON,
84 St Katharine's Way, E1,
April 24.

From Mr Simon Burns, MP for Chesham (Conservative)

Sir, As someone who worked at the Institute of Directors prior to my election in 1987 I was amazed to read the comments of its director general, Peter Morgan. I remember a time when the institute had the guts to stand up during the 1980-2 recession and defend the government for its tough economic policies at a time when it was not popular in certain circles to take this course of action.

At that time the institute was right in its assessment of the economic situation. It is a pity that it now fails to appreciate that Britain is not the only country suffering from an economic down-turn.

This government has had the courage over the last two years to take some fairly tough decisions to rectify the problems facing the British economy. With inflation now falling, and interest rates following suit, it would seem that the corner is being turned and we are on our way to pulling ourselves out of recession.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BURNS,
House of Commons,
April 24.

From Professor Mino Green

Sir, Talk about the pot calling the kettle black! It is as plain as a pikestaff that the nation's lack of economic resilience arises from chronic short-termism, leading to under-investment in education, research and the physical infrastructure, let alone manufacturing methods.

A little less naked greed for money and power from the Institute of Directors, and a little more sense of duty and responsibility for the national well-being, would not come amiss.

Yours faithfully,
MINO GREEN,
Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7.

From Mr David Butler

Sir, I didn't see much sign of the recession in the lunch menu in your photograph (April 24) of the Institute of Directors at the Albert Hall. I usually have a cheese sandwich under the hedge.

Sincerely,
DAVID BUTLER,
Woolley Green Farm,
Brimsford,
Rushmore, Hampshire.

Indian rejoinder

From the High Commissioner for India

Sir, The letter you have published on "atrocities in Kashmir" (April 15) makes an unsubstantiated and baseless accusation that more than 4,000 Kashmiris have been "murdered by the Indian security forces" and that men between the ages of 15 and 45 have been systematically

alleged of mass rape of girls and women aged six to 85 years by the security forces was investigated by three different authorities at different levels and found to be unsustainable. I may add that in India the conclusions reached by official investigations are subject to rigorous scrutiny and effective, wide-ranging and independent judicial review, entailing punishment in cases of human rights lapses.

The Indian legal system does not countenance or condone violations of human rights. On the other hand, the possibility of false testimony to mislead the visiting journalists and to discredit the government of India under the pressure of terrorists cannot be ruled out.

Strangely enough the signatories to the letter have chosen to overlook the "atrocities" of terrorism in Kashmir, including countless killings and kidnappings. The murder of the late Mr. J. K. Lall, a Kashmiri University, the kidnapping of the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Controls on the spread of heroin

From Dr Tom Carnwath

Sir, Your leader, "Menace of drug wars" (April 18), fails to take account of all the developments in drug services that have occurred over the last five years, particularly in response to fears of an HIV epidemic. It also does not appreciate the important distinction that exists between prescribing and purveying.

If heroin were freely available through off-licences like alcohol, it would certainly do away with the black market in heroin (though not all the other drugs that are widely abused). Heroin by prescription will not eliminate the black market, mainly because many opiate users do not want to be involved exclusively in a prescribing relationship. Readers of your paper who enjoy alcohol would probably be equally unhappy to obtain all their supplies through a doctor in exchange for health counselling.

The policy of the Department of Health is already very similar to that recommended by your leader. It advocates that health workers "must be prepared to work with those who continue to misuse drugs to help them reduce the risk in doing so, above all the risk of acquiring or spreading HIV infection".

In response to this, many community drug teams have been formed which aim to influence users to do less damage to themselves and society through crime and the spread of infection. Long-term opiates are prescribed where necessary.

In the district in which I work we have had great success in attracting users and helping them lead healthier and more stable lives; but the funding for community drug teams, and for research into their work, is still inadequate.

Yours sincerely,
TOM CARNWATH,
Graffon House, Marlborough Road,
Bowdon, Cheshire, Cheshire,
April 18.

From the Reverend Kenneth Leach

Sir, Your editorial is timely. From the publication of the second Brain report (November 1965) onwards, a number of us were pointing out, often through your columns, how precarious and dangerous the situation was. A combination of official lethargy (including the long delay in setting up the treatment centres recommended by Brain) with inept legislation, leading to the ending of some necessary medical activity, was bound to lead to an escalation of the criminal market in heroin and cocaine.

On November 9, 1966, you

Enthusiasm in church

From Mr Noel Hughes

Sir, The Bishop of Oxford's statement ("Forward to a stirring tune", April 19) that "Mr Ronald Knox thought enthusiasm a sin bordering on heresy" is inept. In the concluding passage of *Enthusiasm* Knox writes

... in itself enthusiasm is not a wrong tendency but a false emphasis. Quakerism exaggerates only a little the doctrine of the mystics about simplicity in prayer, about disinterested love. Quakerism does not embrace the dangerous isolation of the truth of God's presence within us. Jamesonism is the vigilant conscience of Christendom overshadowed by a scruple. Methodism is the call back to Christ in an age of Deism. What men like Pascal, Fenelon and Wesley saw clearly was something true and something valuable; the exaggerations, the eccen-

Traffic hazard

From Mr Adrian Peacock

Sir, Recent spring sunshine saw the reappearance of swarms of youths waiting windscreen, uninvited, at road junctions in London, with the youths complaining at any signs of reluctance to pay.

The Metropolitan and City police seem to make no attempt to stop what is frequently a considerable nuisance to drivers and inevitably interferes with an already very slow-moving traffic flow. Moreover, might there not be a temptation to "jump" the amber lights to avoid being first in the queue?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PEACOCK,
31 Romney Road, SE27.

Reporters on the air

From Mrs Sally Holloway

Sir, Andrew Boyle would have been the first to deny that until 1965 BBC news consisted of mostly "anonymous announcers reading out news agency reports", as your obituary of him (April 24) alleges.

When I joined the BBC News Division in 1951, as a news reporter, there was already a long-established and highly respected staff of news reporters based in London, as well as a first-class team of foreign correspondents.

We broadcast regularly "in voice" (i.e., as ourselves, either live or recorded), not only on the regular news bulletins but in the nightly *Radio Newsweek* and the weekly *Eye Witness* features at home. We provided a comprehensive, round-the-clock, worldwide news and magazine service, again "in voice".

Admittedly, there were fewer recorded interviews, but these were restricted by the available technical equipment, rather than lack of editorial inspiration. We worked with a recording engineer and a recorded-programme assistant, cutting discs using complicated installations in the stripped-down back seats of Humber saloon recording cars and, later, extremely heavy "portable" tape-recording boxes; these, of necessity, restricted the use of calibrating voice "inserts".

Andrew would, I am sure, not have wished this work to be forgotten. Yours truly,
SALLY HOLLOWAY,
95 Lonsdale Road,
Barnes, SW13,
April 24.

From Mr Ian McIntyre

Sir, "Mostly anonymous"? Frank Gillard reporting from the Normandy beaches? Leonard Miall from Washington? Christopher Serpell from Rome? Erik de Mauny from Moscow?

printed a lengthy letter from me, pointing out that the medical management of heroin addicts "is now beyond control". I went on to say that "there is no doubt that criminals have already moved into the black market in drugs, and many experts warn of the likelihood of professional syndicates on American lines trying to take over the market". Every prediction in that and subsequent letters has come to pass, indeed to a greater extent than I envisaged.

Having worked with heroin-users in inner London for over 25 years, I am horrified at the way in which our earlier warnings were ignored. We were accused of being over-dramatic, and assured that the problem was under control. Because earlier warnings were not heeded, we have reaped the whirlwind.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEECH,
St Botolph's Crypt Centre,
Aldgate, EC3,
April 21.

From Dr R. W. K. Reeves

Sir, An injection of heroin gives a surge of pleasure. It removes feelings of despair and depression as well as the harshness of reality. Its substitute, methadone, can be taken by mouth in liquid form and can thus be drunk at a daily drop-in clinic. It does not cause a surge of pleasure but dulls the craving for heroin and is used in the treatment of withdrawal symptoms.

The more heroin prescribed, the greater the spillage into the community and the more chance that young people will get hold of it at times of emotional difficulties. For the heavily addicted, methadone can bring to an end a pattern of criminality. Patients have said to me "We no longer wake up in the morning planning the day's thefts and robberies".

Services for addicts vary. The government is now in a position to be fully informed, through the Drug Advisory Service, what the local situation is. Thus they are in a position to identify areas where services are not adequate and take remedial action. When that state of affairs is reached, then those who choose to finance their habit through selling drugs to others must know that treatment is available.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. K. REEVES (Consultant forensic psychiatrist),
Fremantle Clinic,
Blackberry Hill,
Stapleton, Bristol, Avon,
April 18.

trickles, were hatched by the heat of controversy.

Perhaps for the rest of 1991 the Anglican episcopate should call a close season on allegations of heresy.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL HUGHES,
16 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

From the Reverend Dr Gordon Huelin

Sir, Pace the Bishop of Oxford, and according to the late Dr J. R. H. Moorman's *History of the Church in England*, it was not Matthew but Thomas Arnold who in 1832 declared that "the Church of England as it now stands no human power can save".

Yours faithfully,
GORDON HUELIN,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Nitrogen limitation

From Mr Andrew Stobart

Sir, For many years British agriculture has suffered from importing more energy than it exports, and a large proportion of this has been nitrogen fertilisers (letters, April 8, 1991). It is now technically feasible, and is being investigated in other countries, to make one's own fertilisers on the farm, using natural energy such as water and wind to create an electric spark to oxidise nitrogen. In addition, work has been done in the past in the UK on using electric current, again from renewable energy sources, instead of fertilisers.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STOBART
(Managing Director),
Resource Conservation plc,
100 Main Street,
Great Ouseburn, York.

North of the Border

From Dr A. J. N. Warrack

Sir, May I remind Gordon Robson (April 23) that "Scotch" can be applied to more than whisky, mist or dogs.

The *Scots Dialect Dictionary* compiled by my grandfather, the Reverend Alexander Warrack, (Chambers, 1911), gives perhaps rather more examples than you have space to print, but I commend to you Scotch European (a Scotsman living on the continent), Scotch fiddle (the fiddle), Scotch mile (1,994 yards) and, for our butchers, Scotch collops (meat slices).

Yours are,
SANDY WARRACK,
2 Southbourne Court,
Drury Lane, Dorset,
Southfield, South Yorkshire.

From the Rector of Wrotham

Sir, In Northumberland, where much of the beer comes from north of the border, it is generally referred to as "scotch". I treasure the memory of the Kitchin handlooms face — consternation, tinged with admiration — when my father, on his first visit south, ordered "two pints of best scotch".

Yours faithfully,
G. A. ROBSON,
The Rectory,
Wrotham, Kent,
April 23.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 25: The President of the Republic of Poland this morning at Windsor Castle received the Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.

The President afterwards received the Leader of the Opposition (the Right Hon. Neil Kinnock, MP).

Mrs Wales this morning visited the Lord Mayor Trevelyan College, Alton, Hampshire and was received by the Headmaster (Mr. Hartley Heath).

The President of the Republic of Poland addressed the delegates attending "The 1991 Future of Europe" Conference organised by the British Atlantic Group of Young Politicians at Lancaster House.

Afterwards the President visited the Palace of Westminster and was received by the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords (the Lord Widdington).

The Lord Chancellor (the Lord Mackay of Clashfern) and the Speaker (the Right Hon. Bernard Weatherill, MP) were presented to His Majesty.

The President of the Republic of Poland visited the Bank of England and was entertained at luncheon by the Governor (the Right Hon. Robin Leigh-Pemberton).

Mrs Wales this afternoon visited the Willis Museum, the Basingstoke Shopping Centre and the Civic Centre, Basingstoke.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys), received Lieutenant-Colonel John Sharples upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) and Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas Seymour upon assuming the appointment.

Lieutenant-General Sir Norman Arthur, as Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) was present.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at a banquet this evening by the President of the Republic of Poland and Mrs Wales at Clarence's, London W1.

The Duchess of Gloucester and the Right Hon. Sir Robert Fellowes were in attendance.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 25: The Princess Royal this morning re-opened East Ham Memorial Hospital, Shrewsbury Road, London, E7.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness opened Queen Mary's Hostel, Greencoat Place, Westminster, for the Church Housing Association.

This afternoon the Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, attended the Royal Veterinary College Honorary Degree Ceremony at the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London, and subsequently attended the Royal Veterinary College Bicentenary Reception at St James's Palace.

This evening Her Royal Highness, Honorary Fellow, Royal Veterinary College, attended the Royal Veterinary College Students' Bicentenary Ball, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London.

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

The Lord Chancellor (the Lord Mackay of Clashfern) and the Speaker (the Right Hon. Bernard Weatherill, MP) were presented to His Majesty.

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OBITUARIES

PAUL BRICKHILL

Paul Brickhill, Australian writer, died in Sydney on April 23 aged 74. He was born in Melbourne on December 20, 1916.

Paul Brickhill was one of the best and most successful of the writers who satisfied the public craving for heroic stories of the war which was such a feature of the 1940s and 1950s. Indeed his three best-known books, *The Great Escape* (1951), *The Dam Busters* (1951) and *Reach for the Sky* (1954), may almost be said to constitute an anthology of the cardinal points of wartime heroism as it was received by the generation of schoolboys who grew up in the post-war period. The second world war was one in which the flyers had had the most glamorous role; the scientists had also performed in a manner which presented a deeply satisfying picture of British technical ingenuity backing up the courage of the fighting men. Thus Brickhill's *The Dam Busters*, with its story of Barnes Wallis's unique bouncing bombs breaching the Ruhr dams thanks to the skill and daring of Wing Commander Guy Gibson and the pilots of 617 squadron, endowed a single air raid with a mythological status it has never lost. *Reach for the Sky* made its protagonist, the legless German Captain Douglas Bader, quite simply the war's most famous fighter pilot, while at the same time telling before the young a quite extraordinary story of courage triumphing over adversity. In a Brickhill book courage and a refusal to succumb to life's disappointments were emphasised. Stupidity and obtuseness, whether they were exhibited by the enemy or by officialdom at home, were obstacles merely to be surmounted. Obstructionism on the home front was not dwelt on as having had an eroding effect on the war effort, as tended to happen in the more acerbic style of war book which came into vogue from the 1960s onwards. That said, Brickhill was a good writer who had the technical knowledge as an ex-fighter pilot himself to make his accounts convincing and the perceptiveness to breathe life into his war heroes. He set a standard in the telling of popular war stories which has never been surpassed.

Paul Chester Jerome Brickhill was born in Melbourne but brought up in Sydney. He was educated at North Sydney High School and Sydney University where he graduated in the 1930s. In the years before the war he

worked as a journalist on the Sydney *Sun* among other papers. In 1940 he joined the Royal Australian Air Force, learned to fly and got his wings as a fighter pilot. He was posted to the European war theatre and served in the United Kingdom and the Middle East. He was as much of a dare-devil as any of the heroes he was later to write about and on one occasion he was court-martialled (though acquitted) for "low and dangerous flying" after "beating up" a Bournemouth pub in his Spitfire.

During the North African campaign his aircraft was shot down over Tunisia in 1943. Wounded, he managed to bale out and on landing was captured by the Germans. He spent the rest of the war in captivity in Stalag Luft III in Silesia where he was involved in organising escapes. This first hand experience later gave *The Great Escape* its authenticity.

After his release he went back to newspapers and spent the years 1945-47 travelling as a foreign correspondent in Europe and the USA. But he wanted to write books and his first, *Escape to Danger*, written in collaboration with Conrad Norton, appeared in 1946. A description of the experiences of a number of pilots who had had to bale out of their aircraft in wartime, it was praised for its authenticity. Its reception persuaded a Brickhill to abandon journalism. This instinct was confirmed by the financial rewards garnered by his next book, *The Great Escape*. It was the story of the breakout by 78 RAF officers from Stalag Luft III on March 24, 1944, which Brickhill had helped organise but which ended tragically when 50 of the escapees were shot on Hitler's orders. It was not actually made into a film until 1963 when it provided a vehicle for a host of screen



stars such as Steve McQueen, Richard Attenborough and Charles Bronson but the book was a huge success. Brickhill followed it almost immediately with *The Dam Busters*. This told not just the story of the famous raid on the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe dams of May 15-16, 1943, but continued the story of 617 squadron and its unique precision bombing missions, which included finally dispatching the battleship *Tirpitz* in a Norwegian Fjord, until the war's end. It was a thoughtful as well as enthralling book and Barnes Wallis emerged from its pages as a hero in his own way to rank alongside such men as Gibson and Leonard Cheshire. A film of the same title (1954), using Guy Gibson's book *Enemy Coast Ahead* as well as Brickhill as source material, with a script by R. C. Sherriff and featuring a sensitive performance by Michael Redgrave as Barnes Wallis, is a war classic.

The Dam Busters is Brickhill's best (in the sense of being his most truthful) book but as a commercial success it was exceeded by *Reach for the Sky*, which came after *Escape or Die* (1952), a series of stories of RAF escapes with an introduction by R. E. Bates. In its telling of the story of a young RAF pilot who lost both legs during an aerobatic stunt he undertook "for a dare", *Reach for the Sky* did not mince words over the war's demonic ego of one of the war's legendary figures. In Brickhill's apparent admiration of Bader's enthusiasm for the "big wing" tactics which could have lost the war, the book inadvertently does less than justice to that patient and wise commander, Hugh Dowding. But as a tale of Bader's dogged refusal to acknowledge the odds against his achieving anything — much less commanding a fighter squadron — the account compels wonder even while it patently asks for hero worship. It is still in print. The film of 1956 starred Kenneth More, perhaps too "nice" a man to give a totally convincing portrayal of the ferocious fighter ace. But it was a box office hit and contains some memorable scenes.

These books and the films they spawned made Brickhill's fortune and he published little more afterwards apart from *The Deadline* (1962). He had married Margaret Olive Slater in 1950. The marriage, of which there was a son and a daughter, was dissolved in 1964.

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Commons motion criticises Coats bid

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE focus of the hostile takeover bid by Coats Vuyella for the rival textile group Tootal shifted to Westminster yesterday, when 144 MPs of all parties expressed concern over the bid.

In a Commons motion, they said a takeover could "weaken Britain's position as the leading supplier of industrial thread and threaten the future of some of the most advanced textile factories in Europe".

But the motion came too late to move Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, who, as expected, said the bid would not be referred to the monopolies commission.

Tootal responded by saying it would issue a profit forecast in its defence against the £194 bid. The document will also contain "details of specific projects in each of Tootal's core businesses that are expected to improve profitability in 1992-3." Tomorrow is the last day Tootal can publish new information on the bid under the takeover code timetable.

Coats immediately attacked the promised profit forecast as being based on only two full months of trading in the current year. Coats also demanded the publication of a balance sheet and cashflow statement for the year to end-January 1991.

Pilkington review leads to wave of small sell-offs

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PILKINGTON, the glass multinational at the centre of recent takeover speculation, has made another disposal as part of a review of operations started last autumn.

Pilkington Reinforcements, which processes glass fibre for engine belts, has been sold to Nippon Sheet Glass (NSG), the group's Japanese partner, for £7.4 million. The company, which sells mainly in Europe and America, made a small profit.

Since Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, announced sharply lower interim profits in December, the group has made a series of sales and rationalisations of peripheral businesses. In January, the company sold its loss-making Kitson's insulation contracting business to a German company and raised more than £10 million by selling part of its stake in a Taiwan glass company to NSG. The group also decided to close its loss-making Australian wall cladding business, incurring a substantial extraordinary closure cost.

In February, Pilkington sold loss-making Keith Young (Insulation), a merchanting business, and announced closure of a glass plant in New Zealand which had just run into loss. And last month,



In camera: Sir Antony Pilkington can reflect on the group's rationalisation plans

Pilkington raised about £16 million by selling a half share in its defence optonics business to Thomson, of France.

The business made a reduced loss of £1.8 million in

the six months to end-September. Distribution interests in Australia were also reshuffled with another group, Pilkington paying a net £1.3 million.

In total the closures are

expected to lead to big extraordinary losses being written off in the year just ended, for which one City analyst predicts pre-tax profits halved to about £165 million.

IMF chief issues warning on rate cuts

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

MICHEL Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has implied that efforts by the Bush administration to drive down international interest rates are misguided.

He told a meeting of the IMF in Washington that the fund's interim committee wanted to avoid rekindling inflation that "could stifle" a global economic recovery.

His remarks came as George Bush, the American president, called for easier credit as the country tries to recover from its first economic slowdown in eight years.

This month, Nicholas Brady, the American Treasury secretary, pressed European banks and policy-makers to lower interest rates, after moves by the Federal Reserve to ease credit. The pressure has annoyed some members of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, whose economic cycles are more divergent than they have been for several years.

Mr Camdessus said an artificial lowering of short-term interest rates in order to jumpstart the economy risked leading to higher longer-term rates, because international financial markets would not support the move.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Queensland objects to Tate & Lyle bid

THE Queensland state government has told the Australian federal government, in a 35-page submission, that it opposes Tate & Lyle's Aus\$321 million (£145 million) takeover bid for Bundaberg Sugar. It is understood the submission argues that the planned takeover fails to satisfy state government guidelines.

James Kerr Muir, managing director of Tate & Lyle's UK division, said last night that the state government's stand was unexpected and disconcerting. He arrived in Brisbane yesterday for talks with Queensland-based institutional shareholders. "We need to do some more thinking and talking about this before I can comment more," he said.

Five Oaks falls payout

FIVE Oaks Investments, the property company, has axed its interim dividend (0.6p) as it dived into the red after an £8.3 million provision against the value of completed developments. The charge pushed the company to a pre-tax interim loss of £7.88 million to end-December (£431,000 profit). Rental income climbed from £1.28 million to £1.48 million.

Value rises at SM&T

THE net asset value at Scottish Mortgage & Trust increased to 172.3p (163.8p) at end-March. Pre-tax revenue advanced from £19.2 million to £21.9 million in the year to end-March, on gross investment income ahead from £31.7 million to £35.3 million. Earnings per share are 4.42p (3.94p). The final dividend is 2.45p (2.25p), making 3.7p (3.35p).

Kalamazoo improves

KALAMAZOO, the office stationery to business systems group, which achieved a turnaround last year, has continued its recovery and is paying its first interim dividend since 1988. The company, which is controlled by the Kalamazoo Trust, made pre-tax profits of £1.03 million in the six months to end-January, against last time's loss of £1.29 million. Group turnover fell from £31.5 million to £28.3 million.

Overall interest costs were slashed from £791,000 to £63,000. Gearing was "below 10 per cent". There is a proposed interim dividend of 0.5p (nil). Earnings per share stood at 1.8p (nil), and shares firmed ½p to 46p.

Securities lifts payout

THE net asset value at Securities Trust of Scotland, the international income growth trust, climbed to 73.9p (70.7p) at the end of March. Total revenue grew from £17.2 million to £17.7 million. Earnings per share rose to 3.1p (2.9p). The final dividend is increased to 2.08p (1.92p), making an improved total of 3.1p (2.82p) for the year.

OBC bought for £500,000

SECURE Trust Group, the Birmingham financial services company, has acquired OBC Insurance Consultants for £500,000. OBC, which will be absorbed by OBC, which is a private company and has 34 high street offices, had unaudited profits of £16,819 in the six months to end-June 1990. OBC's net liabilities are about £1.51 million.

Property profit halves

A SHARP increase in interest charges has more than halved interim profits at Scottish Metropolitan Property, the property investor and developer. Pre-tax profits fell from £5.55 million to £2.72 million for the six months to February 15. Gross rental income for the period rose 16 per cent to £9.74 million and net proceeds from disposals were £12.6 million. The interest bill rose from £2.54 million to £6.57 million, leaving interim earnings per share at 1.86p compared with 3.97p for the previous first half.

The company's net book value fell by £1.33 million over the period. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.53p.

Deadline nears on Euro share market

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN finance ministers will today be warned that they are close to overrunning the deadline for agreement on the European investment services directive, which aims to extend the single European market to investments in securities.

The warning will come from Luxembourg, holder of the EC presidency, which is concerned that Europe could fail to achieve even an embryonic single market in securities by the end of 1992 if no political agreement is reached in the next two months. Early agreement is necessary due to the delay in parliamentary ratification needed to implement EC decisions.

A high level working group, set up by European finance ministers, is close to reaching a compromise, which according to Jean Guill, the group's president, is now only "a matter of wording". That compromise, however, will fall far short of the original proposal by the commission.

Mr Guill said yesterday: "We have made good progress, but we now must get political progress, otherwise it will be too late for implementation in 1993." It is expected that the compromise will disappoint those favouring a liberal approach. At present, finance houses in some countries, such as Italy, Spain and Belgium, are forced to trade through their own domestic markets. The compromise envisages a relaxation, under which they will be allowed limited off-market trading.

The issue has proved highly controversial for countries that operate protectionist securities markets. The split is a classic north-south divide, with countries such as Britain, Holland and Germany favouring a liberal approach, against fierce opposition from southern countries, which are concerned about the possible erosion of their local market.

Larne factory to close

GEC-Alsthom will cut 900 jobs

By ROBERT RODWELL

THE cancellation of the British nuclear power programme and of large conventional coal-fired power stations with the privatisation of electricity were blamed yesterday for the cutback of 900 jobs by GEC-Alsthom, the heavy generator company.

The company is to close its factory at Larne, in County Antrim, by the end of this year with the loss of 900 jobs and a further 400 jobs are to go in Rugby, Stafford and at Old Trafford in Manchester.

Douglas Gadd, the chairman, said that with the newly privatised generators and independent power suppliers now favouring smaller combined cycle power plants, there was a much reduced demand for the large heat exchangers manufactured at Larne, where 200 jobs were cut in January last year.

This type of equipment was only required by nuclear and conventional oil and coal-fired plants. Mr Gadd said some work had been diverted to Larne from GEC-Alsthom's French factories but this was insufficient.

Though further substantial redundancies had long been expected, the closure of the Larne factory, which opened in 1957, had "dumbed" the harbour town where it was the largest manufacturing employer, said Roy Beggs, the MP for East Antrim. He called upon Richard Needham, the Northern Ireland Office economy minister, and Ulster's Industrial Development Board to redouble their efforts to find new investors.

The minister said his department would work closely with GEC to find an alternative use for the facility and jobs for its employees.

An industry that girdles the earth

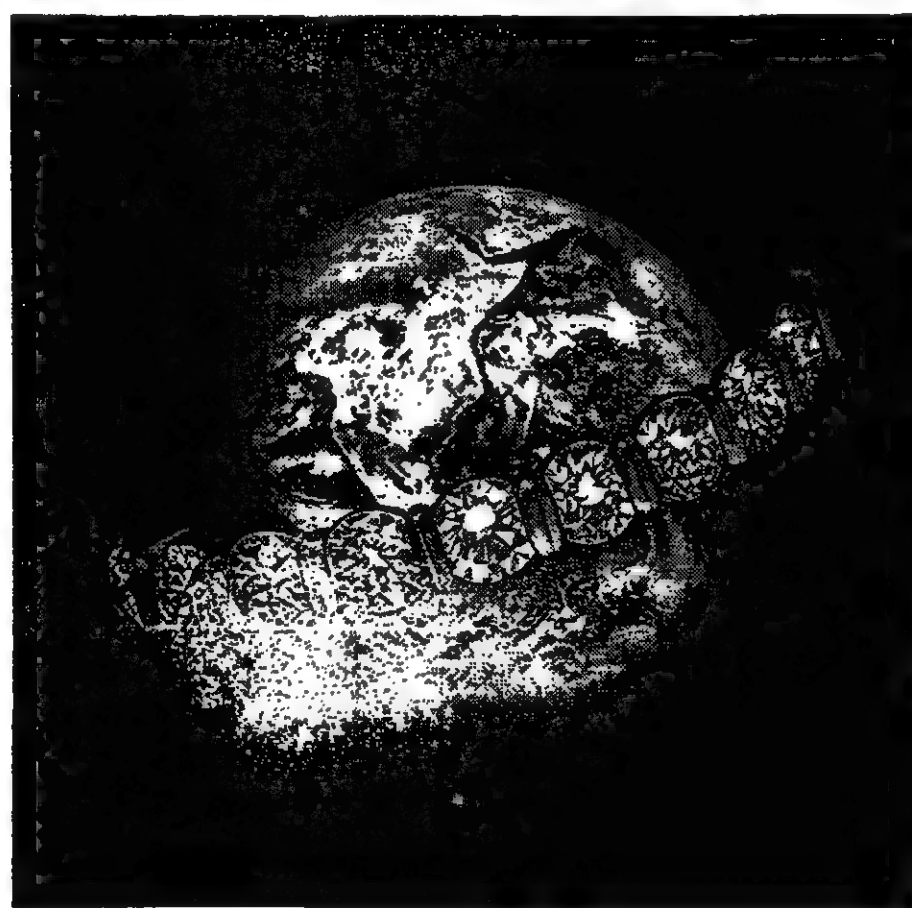
Six points from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Chairman's Statement for 1990

Soviet Union

The global nature of the diamond industry was once again reinforced by developments in 1990. De Beers Centenary's inaugural year was marked by a five year US\$5 billion sales agreement with Glavalmazoloto of the USSR. This contract with one of the world's largest producers of gem diamonds was further recognition of the benefits of single channel marketing through which the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) has served producers, consumers and the diamond industry as a whole for more than half a century. Centenary's fully secured US\$1 billion advance to Glavalmazoloto illustrates the extent of its financial resources and its ability to hold a large buffer stock of diamonds should the need arise.

Angola

Another development which reinforced the stability of the diamond market was De Beers Centenary's agreement in principle with the Angolan state diamond corporation, Endiama, under which the production of the Cuango River area will be marketed by the CSO. Centenary will lend Endiama US\$50 million at a commercial rate of interest to finance extensions to



the Cuango mining area. The first diamond shipments have already been received in London.

Diamond sales

After seven years of growth, world retail diamond sales levelled off in 1990. Total sales of rough diamonds for the year amounted to US\$4,167 million, two per cent higher than 1989. Despite the adverse international economic climate, CSO sales at the first three sights in 1991 were satisfactory and the CSO is confident of achieving sales comparable to last year's.

Group earnings

Reflecting the fact that the major part of our earnings nowadays is generated outside South Africa, De Beers Centenary accounted for 81 per cent of attributable earnings and 62 per cent of equity accounted earnings of the combined results. Combined attributable earnings declined by 16 per cent to US\$950 million while equity accounted earnings fell by 17 per cent to US\$1,317 million. Total dividends per linked unit were US 111.3 cents, a marginal increase on 1989.

Sea floor mining

The continuing development by De Beers Marine of sea floor mining technology is evidence of our long-term worldwide commitment to exploration and research. In 1990 some 29,000 carats were recovered by De Beers Marine off Namibia for CDM.

South Africa

Profound political changes have opened the way for South Africa to rejoin the community of nations and there are already signs of the significant benefits it will derive from its re-introduction into the world economy. The new South Africa must achieve and maintain a high rate of economic growth to generate the resources so urgently needed for social investment and to provide meaningful opportunities for all South Africans. De Beers Consolidated Mines has played a leading role in the Private Sector Initiative which has raised R570 million (US\$222 million) over five years for education and housing in black communities.

The full Chairman's Statement is available with the Annual Reports of the two Companies for the year ended 31st December 1990, which have been posted to registered shareholders. Copies may be obtained by writing to the London address below.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

De Beers Centenary AG

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa), London Office, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.
De Beers Centenary AG (Incorporated under the laws of Switzerland), Head Office, Langensandstrasse 27, CH-6000 Lucerne 14, Switzerland.

Thank god (Allah) for investment oil sheikhs' ha against sterling ing should hav currency marke more importan: and Downing's home truths.

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Insti man

FUND managers are pe figures in the City this s Duven of companie queuing at the doors i main investment institu asking for money.

Rights issues are ba Lashout. During the month, City investors witnessed the most f round of equity financ more than four years. So a day has passed with least one cash call.

The flow of issues a little sign of abating, today alone, five com launched share issues a up to more than £60 m while this week's total £300 million.

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Edwardes joi the lights

LIKE any good City tro shooter, Sir Michael Edw finds the lure of a new c ege hard to resist. Bu South African-born entr neur has surprised the Ci the same by joining the b of Porth Group, better k for its Christmas decora than for labour dispute multi-million pound bid: Michael, aged 60, who t his name as a tough mai at Chloride and British land, and was chief exec of Minorco during the billion bid for Consolc Gold Fields, flew in from cago yesterday wond what all the fuss was abou is a classic chairman of board role which will inv regular and frequent b meetings, and I will be much involved with p decisions," he says. "But on a lot of boards and w not want to overemph my role." Sir Michael, stands 5ft 3ins and was kn as Titchy at school - he on to become a "ferocii scrum-half at Rhodes Un sity, Grahamstown - is b ing up a portfolio of dire ships to rival that of Sir J Harvey-Jones, with na like Charter Consolidated Minorco under his belt. coincidence, yesterday sav appointment of David L Jacob as executive chair of Butte Mining - fresh t an eight-year spell in the ercan steel industry. He well known in the Square i

De Beers

Home truths from Abu Dhabi

Thank god (or should we say Allah) for the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. The oil sheikhs' half-billion dollar investment in the City against sterling yesterday morning should have reminded the currency markets — and even more importantly the Treasury and Downing Street — of a few home truths.

The first is that membership of the ERM has failed to dissipate the magnetic attraction between the words "crisis" and "sterling". The second is that the alleged depth of the foreign exchange markets is partly an illusion. Economists are constantly saying that the sums which pass every day across the foreign exchange are so immense that international trade flows and central bank intervention pale into insignificance. What yesterday's events showed again was that most of these billions and trillions of dollars have absolutely no impact on foreign exchange rates. If a well-timed customer order of \$500 million from Abu Dhabi could push sterling down by 1 per cent, then presumably a well-timed

central bank intervention by the Bank of England or the Bundesbank can achieve similarly spectacular results.

This leads to home truth number three, the one which may keep the Chancellor and the prime minister awake at night. The reason why sterling fell at least in the minds of the tabloid headline writers. The second is that the alleged depth of the foreign exchange markets is partly an illusion. Economists are constantly saying that the sums which pass every day across the foreign exchange are so immense that international trade flows and central bank intervention pale into insignificance. What yesterday's events showed again was that most of these billions and trillions of dollars have absolutely no impact on foreign exchange rates. If a well-timed customer order of \$500 million from Abu Dhabi could push sterling down by 1 per cent, then presumably a well-timed

After the run on the mark in the wake of the Christian Democrats' election defeat at the weekend, investors in Japan and the Middle East have begun wondering about which other European currencies might be vulnerable to political jitters. Unless next week's local election

results go better than expected for John Major, the answer may soon be obvious.

To make matters worse, the statisticians, industrialists and now even some of the government's own backbenchers on the Treasury and Civil Service Committee keep piling on the economic gloom. Not only is the recession proving much worse than expected, but with the Gulf war and the poll tax slipping into the background, the dismal state of the economy will begin to interact ever more powerfully with the public opinion polls and hence the confidence of the financial markets. Next week, a grim CBI quarterly survey will dominate the headlines the day before the local elections.

When will the Chancellor draw the obvious conclusion? He must continue cutting interest rates

and helping the economy out of recession. If he lets the recession drag on and the public draws the obvious political conclusion, he will win no thanks from investors in sterling.

ICI suffers

The depth of the recession, not just in Britain, is evident from the fortunes of ICI, whose first quarter profits plunged from £414 million to £198 million pre-tax on sales down 11 per cent in volume. Given the odd £20 million from pharmaceutical sales last year, this is a fair reflection of the change in economic conditions, since the first quarter of 1990 was the last of the good times for the chemicals multinational.

The good news is that profits

were at least better than most City analysts expected. Spring duly happened but beyond that ICI sees no more evidence in orders and markets than before of any immediate relief. ICI shares, which jumped 20p on the profit figures, duly subsided 15p to 1.075p.

The great disappointment is that the group's long campaign to free itself from Britain's economic cycles, first by expansion in America and on the Continent, then by a determined move into products with higher added value, has come to little. Petrochemicals and fibres were not unexpectedly in loss but the effect chemicals division also continued its sad descent in the second half of 1990, with first quarter profits down from £36 million to just £7 million.

Even pharmaceuticals had a poor start, though management remains confident of higher profits for the year. Of the main businesses, only the splendid

paint division managed to shine against hopeless market conditions in the first quarter.

This disappointment has been reflected in the stock market. ICI's share price relative to the all-share index has fallen near to its all-time depths of 1981, when the dividend was cut. That is unlikely to happen this time. The historical parallel is not, however, without interest. Then, ICI enjoyed a false dawn and profits took longer to recover than expected.

Future quarters should not look so bad by comparison with 1990 because ICI's cycle turned down early. But Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, rests his hopes of a second-half recovery on forecasts of economic recovery on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet doubts are growing on both the turning points of the recession and the pace of economic recovery.

ICI shares now rest on their 6.8 per cent dividend yield, but would sell at more than 15 times earnings of 70p and are therefore likely to wax and wane with the signs of economic upturn.

Institutions worry that too many rights could be wrong

FUND managers are popular figures in the City this spring. Dozens of companies are queuing at the doors of the main investment institutions, asking for money.

Rights issues are back in fashion. During the past month, City investors have witnessed the most frantic round of equity financing in more than four years. Scarcely a day has passed without at least one cash call.

The flow of issues shows little sign of abating. Yesterday alone, five companies launched share issues adding up to more than £60 million, while this week's total tops £300 million.

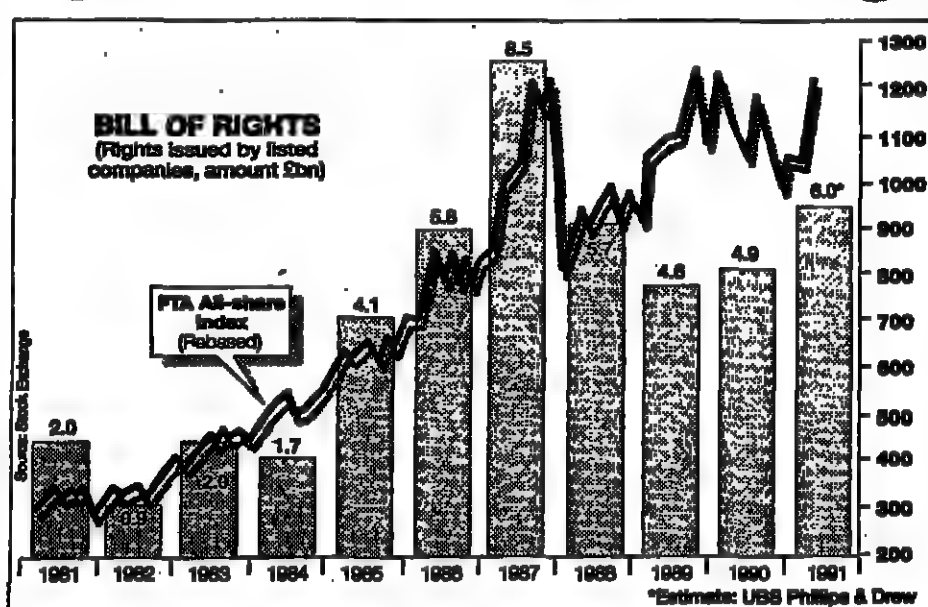
Reports in the City suggest the Bank of England's informal calendar for rights is full until the end of May, although the Bank refuses to comment.

Initially, fund managers were happy to subscribe to the issues. Many had near-record levels of liquidity in their funds and the lack of stock market liquidity had left them few opportunities to invest.

Now unease is growing in some institutions about the seemingly endless demands for finance. Some managers are concerned that companies are using the rise in the stock market to raise unnecessary funds, while other see a liquidity shortage developing unless the rate of issues slows.

Roger Yates, a fund manager at Morgan Grenfell, says that many of the issues are being made by the wrong companies. "We are signing blank cheques in some cases," he said. "We are less than happy about accepting rights from companies which do not need the money, or want it for unstated acquisitions."

Mr Yates prefers to support



companies that need to raise capital to cut debt and improve balance sheets. He said: "The stock market is giving money to those companies which need it least. There are many companies out there that have good businesses struggling to get out, if only they could clear their balance sheets."

Companies have announced issues worth almost £3 billion this year, but there are signs that institutional demand for more equity is weakening. The construction sector, which has spawned a large number of the cash calls, has underperformed the stock market by 10 per cent since the start of March.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, conservatively forecasts that rights issues will total £6 billion by the end of the year. Mark Brown, the firm's equity strategist, said: "This is the best opportu-

nity companies have had to raise finance in four years. But talking to institutions, you get the feeling they are becoming tired of the issues."

Publicly, the large institutions support the latest round of rights issues. Paddy Linaker, the chairman of M&G Group, said: "We have a responsibility to give companies more capital when they need it."

But most qualify their support on individual issues. "We have turned down one or two when the management has not been up to the mark," Mr Linaker said, "or where the company could raise funds from other sources."

Based on previous experience, the requests for finance could rise far higher than Phillips & Drew's forecast. In 1975 and 1981, the years after previous recessions, companies raised an average of 2.8 per cent of the

market's capitalisation in rights issues. In today's market, this implies companies could ask investors for a massive £18 billion.

Institutions do not have the resources to meet this demand. Most have heavy commitments to the government's privatisation programme. These include instalment payments on the water and electricity distribution companies later this year and the sale of the Scottish electricity companies and the minority stake in BT. The new gilt issues also need funding.

Mr Yates believes institutional liquidity could come under pressure in the near future. "If the same amount is raised again in rights issues, there will be a high level of concern among institutions," he said. "Everybody wants our money and there is a limit."

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Lovell's urban wasteland

BETWEEN Monday and Wednesday, the share price of YJ Lovell, the construction group, fell more than 10 per cent, a clear indication that this was one rights issue the stock market saw coming.

But few can have foreseen the scale of the horror that accompanied the call for £31 million. Most of the issue proceeds appear to have been lost already, with the company indicating that its September year-end results could be accompanied by provisions of up to £25 million.

Last year's unsuccessful bid for Higgs and Hill alone cost Lovell £6 million.

Lovell's share price yesterday said it all. It fell a further 33p to 145p, well below a theoretical all-rights price of 164p. Of all the recent property and construction issues, this looks the one to leave with the underwriters.

Effectively, the Lovell board is asking for its bull back, having made two big mistakes. The first was the bid for Higgs and Hill, the second was the disastrous move into urban renewal, which now looks like costing the company more than £30 million in provisions, despite last year's decision to close the business.

With the final size of the total provisions still in doubt, estimating Lovell's gearing is

TEMPUS

not easy. But assuming the group ultimately writes about £20 million off net assets, on-balance sheet borrowings would be about £50 million, compared with net assets of about £100 million. A further £40 million of off-balance sheet debt would lift total gearing to about 90 per cent. Avoid.

Etam

IT is a measure of the depth of the recession that the slump in Etam's pre-tax profits from £17.5 million to £8.5 million in the year to January 26 was seen as a more than creditable performance by the City yesterday. The shares rose 3p to 163p.

Admittedly, the shares have been boosted in recent weeks by the hope of a full bid from Oceans Investment Corporation, which in February approached the Etam board with a view to acquiring 50 per cent but was rejected.

The City had been looking for a pre-tax figure of around £6.5 million and, given the £1.1 million loss at half time, the group has performed tolerably well, even though £827,000 of the profit came

from a change in the depreciation charge.

Sales rose from £181 million to £207 million and earnings per share fell from 16.7p to 7.51p. The final dividend has been maintained at 4.65p, making 5.85p for the year (6.6p).

There was an exceptional item of £1 million relating to the closure of properties and reorganisation costs and an interest charge of £996,000, although by the year-end the bank balance was in credit by £1.3 million. Capital expenditure was reduced from £25.5 million to £8.8 million.

The shares are trading on 17.3 times earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £10.5 million for the current year. The clothing market will take some time to recover and the bid speculation alone is not a good enough reason to buy the shares at their current level.

N Brown Group

SIR David Alliance spent approaching £2 million topping up his family's stake in N Brown Group to 65 per cent yesterday, a move that re-established Brown as a close company, and will help the

Alliances find the £10.6 million they need to fund their share of the equity placing.

The tax relief will help, but Sir David's commitment should still be seen as a powerful vote of confidence in a company whose particular niche of the mail order market has served it well in the past, but which may find itself under siege shortly from Otto Versand, new owner of Grat-tan, and Redoute, about to acquire Empire Stores.

Luke Brown, the continentals concentrate on direct, rather than agency selling, and may attempt to loosen the grip Brown has on the middle-to-old age clothing market. They will run into stiff competition. Brown's 12 per cent pre-tax increase last year to £14 million and 20 per cent annual compound growth over the past three years, reflects good management and a resilient business, while the £16.4 million funding will pay for its new depot, and pull gearing down from 119 to 55 per cent.

Centralised, computerised handling will help cost controls and thrust profits towards £16.5 million this year, for a well-merited earnings multiple of 13.4 at 228p. Holders should follow Sir David and take up their new share entitlement.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Edwardes joins the lights

LIKE any good City trouble-shooter, Sir Michael Edwardes finds the lure of a new challenge hard to resist. But the South African-born entrepreneur has surprised the City all the same by joining the board of Porth Group, better known for its Christmas decorations than for labour disputes or multi-million pound bids. Sir Michael, aged 60, who made his name as a tough manager at Chloride and British Leyland, and was chief executive of Minorco during the £2.9 billion bid for Consolidated Gold Fields, flew in from Chicago yesterday wondering what all the fuss was about. "It is a classic chairman of the board role which will involve regular and frequent board meetings, and I will be very much involved with policy decisions," he says. "But I sit on a lot of boards and would not want to overemphasise my role." Sir Michael, who stands 5ft 3ins and was known as Ticky at school — he went on to become a "ferocious" scrum-half at Rhodes University, Grahamstown — is building up a portfolio of directorships to rival that of Sir John Harvey-Jones, with names like Charter Consolidated and Minorco under his belt. By coincidence, yesterday saw the appointment of David Lloyd-Jacob as executive chairman of Butte Mining — a fresh from an eight-year spell in the American steel industry. He was well known in the Square Mile

before that ... as managing director of ConsGold.

SIGN in a fashion designer's office in London: "If at first you don't succeed — imitate."

Railroaded

WHEN a large team of City brokers and analysts take a day off to visit the Champagne region of France, anything can happen. But the booty prize for the most recent of such trips — in which 135 City types and journalists crossed the Channel on Wednesday — goes to Simon Rothschild of College Hill Associates, the City PR firm that organised the trip. Rothschild ended up paying £42 for a return ticket from Victoria to Gatwick instead of the usual £14, after a bizarre sequence of events. After forgetting to buy a ticket in Victoria, he was forced to buy one at an inflated price on the train — only to misplace it on arriving in France. Returning to Gatwick, he paid £14 for a pair of single tickets, only to

find the "lost" ticket about five minutes before reaching Victoria. A kindly BR inspector told him he could reclaim the cost of the single ticket ... if he went back to Gatwick.

IN SYDNEY, the problems of language are to be adjudicated by an industrial tribunal after the dismissal of a "new Australian" from his job in a delicatessen. The young man, not long out of Yugoslavia, was asked by a customer if he had any stuffed cabbage. The young man replied: "Get stuffed at the next counter." The customer complained — and the man was dismissed.

All in a name

THE British launch today of American Psycho, the latest gruesome offering from Bret Easton Ellis, the controversial New York author, may raise a few sniggers in the Square Mile. It will only add to the problems of Barry Bateman, managing director of Fidelity Investment Services — and newly appointed chairman of the Unit Trust Association — who is often forced to point out that he is related neither to Paul Bateman, chief executive of Save & Prosper, nor indeed to Mike Bateman, formerly an executive director of Allied Dunbar and now an assistant general manager with MGM Assurance. As fate would have it, the hero — if that is the right word — of the novel is a certain Patrick Bateman, a stockbroker with a fictitious Wall Street firm, who mixes a taste for designer clothes with a fetish for torturing victims in

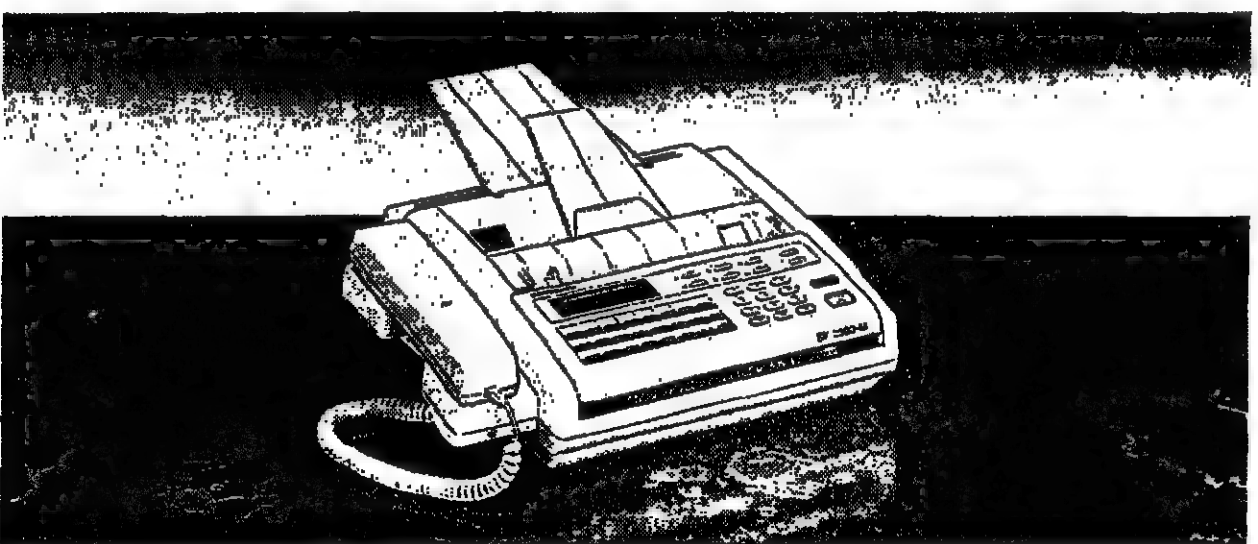
the most horrible way. The book is said to be so revolting that the original American publishers sent Ellis packing with a \$300,000 royalties cheque just days before it was due to be released. It is also curious that the name of the Wall Street firm in his book is Pierce & Pierce — exactly the same as that chosen by Tom Woolfe as Sherman McCoy's workplace in *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

Grave places

THE £130 million hostile takeover bid by Southend Properties for Frogmore Estates has cast more light on the intricacies of City deals. Not only was Southend code-named "Greyhound" during the bid preparations — a reference to the greyhound stadium owned by Southend — but Frogmore was referred to only as "Windsor". Frogmore is, of course, the name of the royal mausoleum at Windsor built by Queen Victoria for Prince Albert, and final resting place of many of the royal family. As fate would have it, the Southend Property head offices in Finchley, north London, are built on the site of an old funeral parlour — the sort of scenario that Stephen King, the American novelist, so much enjoys.

GRAFFITO on a Swiss Cottage hoarding: "Spring is when a boy manns sees a girl manns and finally realises what he's been praying for."

JON ASHWORTH



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Commission investigates paper cartel complaints

By Wolfgang Münch, European Business Correspondent

THE European Commission yesterday announced that it has launched an investigation into alleged illegal cartels in the paper and packaging industry.

The enquiry was sparked off by complaints to the commission by buyers of cardboard, who felt that the recent strong price rises were unjustified.

Some of the world's largest paper firms are under investigation including Stora of Sweden, Cascade of Canada, and the German firm, in which Stora has a 44 per cent stake through its Feldmühle subsidiary, and Mayr-Melnhof of Austria.

The move is potentially politically sensitive since many of the companies involved are non-EC producers, although most of them have stepped up their efforts in the EC from fear of not being allowed to trade in Europe's single market after next year.

The whole paper and packaging industry has gone through a substantial concentration process, which has produced numerous acquisitions of pulp mills.

A spokesman of Kopperfoss UK, Stora's fully owned British agent, based in Nottingham, said yesterday: "I can confirm that we have been visited by representatives from the commission on Tuesday and Wednesday. All I can say is that we have submitted to the investigation."

European cartel investigations are among the most difficult aspects of European competition policy, and can last up to two years due to legal complexities.

However, the commission has stepped up its efforts to investigate alleged cartels. The most recent case involved an investigation into steel producers, including British Steel, which are alleged to have operated a cartel in structural steel. Despite the investigation, the commission possesses strong penal powers. The maximum penalty is 10 per cent of a company's turnover, although this has never been used to its full extent. The largest penalty issued so far was £16 million against ICI which was found guilty of operating an illegal soda ash cartel. However, the commission's ruling is not final, and companies have the right to appeal.

Fair competition has emerged as one of the major planks of commission policies in recognition that concentration resulting from the single European market could distort competition and lead to higher prices for many products.

While most countries operate national cartel investigations, the increasing wave of European takeovers and mergers has resulted in a strong need to conduct such enquiries on a European level.

Louisiana Land and Exploration, the New Orleans energy group that has a listing in London, announced first quarter pre-tax profits of \$13.7 million (\$21.8 million) due to a decline in oil production and natural gas prices.

Operating profits were up 53 per cent to £2.02 million but there was a £995,000 interest charge reflecting increases in working capital. Earnings per share fell from 3.8p to 2.4p. Exceptional income of £561,000 compared with £1.2 million. Again, there is no dividend.

L&L shares up Shares in Lancashire & London Investment Trust rose 9p to 103p as directors met to consider the £8.4 million takeover offer made on Wednesday by Anglo Scandinavian Investment Trust. Shareholders were urged to take no action pending a formal recommendation.

Louisiana down Louisiana Land and Exploration, the New Orleans energy group that has a listing in London, announced first quarter pre-tax profits of \$13.7 million (\$21.8 million) due to a decline in oil production and natural gas prices.



Still spending: Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman, and Mr Ogilvie Thompson

Botswana 'backs De Beers'

By Ross Tye, Industrial Correspondent

JULIAN Ogilvie Thompson, the chairman of De Beers, has dismissed suggestions that Botswana, the world's most important diamond producer in value terms, might opt out of De Beers' Central Selling Organisation.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said yesterday that Botswana had continued to sell its output through the CSO, despite the expiry of the previous three-year contract at the end of December last year.

While presenting De Beers' annual report, Mr Ogilvie Thompson said: "I am not sure that the contract has been renewed on the due date."

He was confident that Botswana's output would continue to be handled by the CSO, which organises the sale of 80 per cent of the world's uncut diamonds.

Profits and sales at De Beers, which is made up of De Beers Consolidated Mines, based in South Africa, and De Beers Centenary, based in

Switzerland, which share a board, were hit last year by weaker demand. Mr Ogilvie Thompson indicated that De Beers' spending to encourage people to give diamonds as presents was likely to be at a similar level to last year, when \$153 million was spent.

In Japan and America, however, advertising would be targeted at couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, identified by research as a promising market.

Plastiseal falls 76% on reshape By Philip Pangalos

BAD debts and exceptional reorganisation costs as well as the recession took their toll on profits at Plastiseal, the USM-quoted maker and installer of windows and doors.

Pre-tax profits fell 76 per cent to £310,000 in the year to end-January. Turnover

climbed from £16.9 million to £18 million, with about 60 per cent of group turnover accounted for by central government bodies.

Mike Price, joint chairman, said: "The main problem was in the second half, when there was quite a dramatic downturn in the order intake."

Profits were also hampered by an exceptional charge of £520,000 for restructuring costs and £235,000 of bad debts.

Mr Price said the recession will be felt for most of this year. Earnings per share plunged from 10.8p to 2.4p. There is a final dividend of 1.5p, making an unchanged total of 3p.

Currency costs curb Norsk Hydro

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

NORSK Hydro, Norway's largest quoted company, reported a reduced net income of Kr611 million (£53 million) for the first quarter this year against Kr813 million in the same period of 1990.

The fall in income came as a result of a sharp increase in financial charges up from Kr318 million to Kr852 million due to foreign exchange translations, which the company hopes will be offset during the rest of the year after the recent strengthening of the dollar.

Operating income fell to Kr1.81 billion from Kr1.89 billion last year.

Egil Myklebust, president of Norsk Hydro, said in a statement yesterday: "Our operating income has held up well in spite of weak market conditions in important product areas. We see now that efforts made during the last few years towards cutting costs and improving productivity have ensured that the company is better able to handle periods of low prices."

Norsk Hydro has four principal business divisions: agricultural products, including fertiliser, oil and gas, light metal and petrochemicals.

Folkers rises to £4.03m By OUR CITY STAFF

PROFITS and dividends are up at Folkers Group, the open-end forger to property development group.

Continuing Folkers, the chairman, says pre-tax profits rose from £3.6 million to £4.03 million in 1990, lifting earnings per share from 6.77p to 7.49p, and shareholders will receive a final dividend of 1.75p for the year against 2.05p previously.

Die forging new accounts for half the group's £47.7 million turnover, and the property division now owns more than 1.7 million sq ft of industrial space on 100 acres in the West Midlands.

Engineering profits improved from £1.2 million to £1.83 million, while property contributed £2.2 million against just under £2 million.

Despite acquisitions, gearing is only 8 per cent.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Call				Put			
		Sept	May	Aug	Nov	Sept	May	Aug	Nov
ABM Lyons ('929)	500	40	57	40	15	22	37	32	
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	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
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	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
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	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
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	120	14	10	10	11	23	33	30	
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415 FRIDAY APRIL 26 1991
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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price
1	Williams Ridge	Industrials S-Z	WRI	1.10
2	Kleinwort Benson	Banking	KWB	1.10
3	Rangers Group	Banking	RNG	1.10
4	Ryl Bk Scot	Banking	RBS	1.10
5	BICC	Electricals	BIC	1.10
6	Pyralis	Food	PYR	1.10
7	Ranger	Oil/Gas	RNG	1.10
8	Nat Amst Bk	Banking	NAB	1.10
9	Br Vita	Industrials A-D	BVT	1.10
10	Redland	Building/Roads	RED	1.10
11	Bass	Beverages	BAS	1.10
12	Unilever	Food	UNI	1.10
13	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Plas	YCH	1.10
14	AS Food	Food	ASF	1.10
15	Rankine Group	Property	RNG	1.10
16	Blackburn Gp	Property	BKG	1.10
17	Admiral	Electricals	ADM	1.10
18	Abbott Mead	Paper/Print/Adv	ABM	1.10
19	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	HIC	1.10
20	Sainsbury J	Food	SBJ	1.10
21	Heads Motor	Motor/Aircraft	HMT	1.10
22	Bennet	Paper/Print/Adv	BEN	1.10
23	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	JMT	1.10
24	Parkland A	Textiles	PAK	1.10
25	Evered Barton	Building/Roads	EBT	1.10
26	Harley & Harrold	Beverages	H&H	1.10
27	RMC Gp	Building/Roads	RMG	1.10
28	Gordon Eng	Industrials E-K	GE	1.10
29	Finello C&W	Industrials E-K	FCW	1.10
30	Lamont	Textiles	LAM	1.10
31	No-Swift	Industrials L-E	NS	1.10
32	Exp Comp Louisiana	Oil/Gas	ECL	1.10
33	Quicks Group	Motor/Aircraft	QUG	1.10
34	Euro Leisure	Leisure	EL	1.10
35	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	SPA	1.10
36	Shell	Oil/Gas	S	1.10
37	Bates Hunter	Electricals	BH	1.10
38	Thames H	Industrials S-Z	TH	1.10
39	Thorn Emi	Electricals	TE	1.10
40	Tarmac	Building/Roads	T	1.10
41	Wesall	Industrials S-Z	W	1.10
42	AS Elect	Electricals	AE	1.10
43	Tate & Lyle	Food	TAL	1.10
44	Rembrandt	Industrials L-E	R	1.10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of 24,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Valerie Hooper, of Taunton, Somerset.

BRITISH FUNDS

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

UNDATED				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

INDEX-LINKED				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
------	------	-----	------	-------	-------

BANKS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

DISCOUNT				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

HP				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares remain sombre

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 15. Dealings end today. Contango day April 29. Settlement day May 7.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BREWERIES				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

BUILDING, ROADS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

ELECTRICITY				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FINANCE, LAND				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FOODS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

ELECTRICITY				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FINANCE, LAND				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

FOODS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

DRAPERY, STORES				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

ELECTRICALS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

HOTELS, CATERERS				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

INDUSTRIALS A-D				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

S-Z				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT				
1991	High	Low	Open	Close
100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
1900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
2900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
3900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
4900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
5900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
6900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
7900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
8900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9100000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9200000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9300000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9400000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9500000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9600000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9700000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9800000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
9900000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50
10000000	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.50

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Urban revolution in full bloom after 25 years of growth

Milton Keynes hopes it will be allowed to assume formally city status later this year, David Young writes in a special report

An estimated 20 million daffodils have just bloomed in Milton Keynes, but there is no sign that they have inspired any poetry about the new city, which in 25 years has sprung from the soil in north Buckinghamshire.

Instead, the praise that has been heaped on the city comes from the companies which have moved there, the planners who have seen their dreams materialise, and the people who live there.

Official recognition of the success of the project is expected to come later this year, when the Queen formally inaugurates the new ceremonial church there and, some speculate, will announce that Milton Keynes can, at last, formally call itself a "city".

At present the term city is used, but it has no official status. Royal recognition would be a fitting end to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, which is to disappear in 11 months.

The running of the city will then pass into the hands of the Commission for New Towns and the local Milton Keynes borough council, with matters such as libraries, education and highways being run, as at present, by Buckinghamshire county council.

The passing of the development corporation will be seen by most with considerable sadness. Its driving force has enabled the city to take shape in a short time, and its determination to stick rigidly to the original ideals and plans has been the reason Milton Keynes has emerged as such a successful entity. However, there are some vital elements missing in Milton Keynes that most people would like to see. It does not have a big auditorium for the performing arts. There is no central art gallery or museum - it would be the perfect site for the development of the new towns and garden city movement - and it does not have a full-pitch sports stadium.

The omission of such a stadium is of special concern to Frank Henshaw, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation's general manager. He is a keen football enthusiast and he misses not having a local football league team to support in the city's stadium.

"Perhaps our successor will rectify that, but on the whole there is nothing really missing from Milton Keynes, although we still have a lot of work to do in our final months," he says.

"1992 has an extra meaning for Milton Keynes. We share with everyone else the European significance of that date, but here it also means the year the government has

"The benefits of a modern infrastructure, spacious layout and attractive landscape, and their effect on the quality of life, are becoming more and more appreciated"

targeted for the completion of the corporation's work.

"Since it was established in 1967 the corporation has been responsible for the growth of Milton Keynes from a collection of small towns and villages to what it is today. No wonder that there are questions on people's minds.

"Whereas the picture of Europe post-1992 is still emerging, I think we can feel more confident about the position of Milton Keynes at that time. During the coming months the corporation will be maintaining the progressive rate of good quality development for which

Milton Keynes is now known world-wide.

"We shall be completing our planning work and securing the remainder of the primary roads and service networks. These activities are crucial to the confidence of the citizens and investors who will continue to find a wide range of opportunities here. They are also essential to fulfilling the Milton Keynes prospectus.

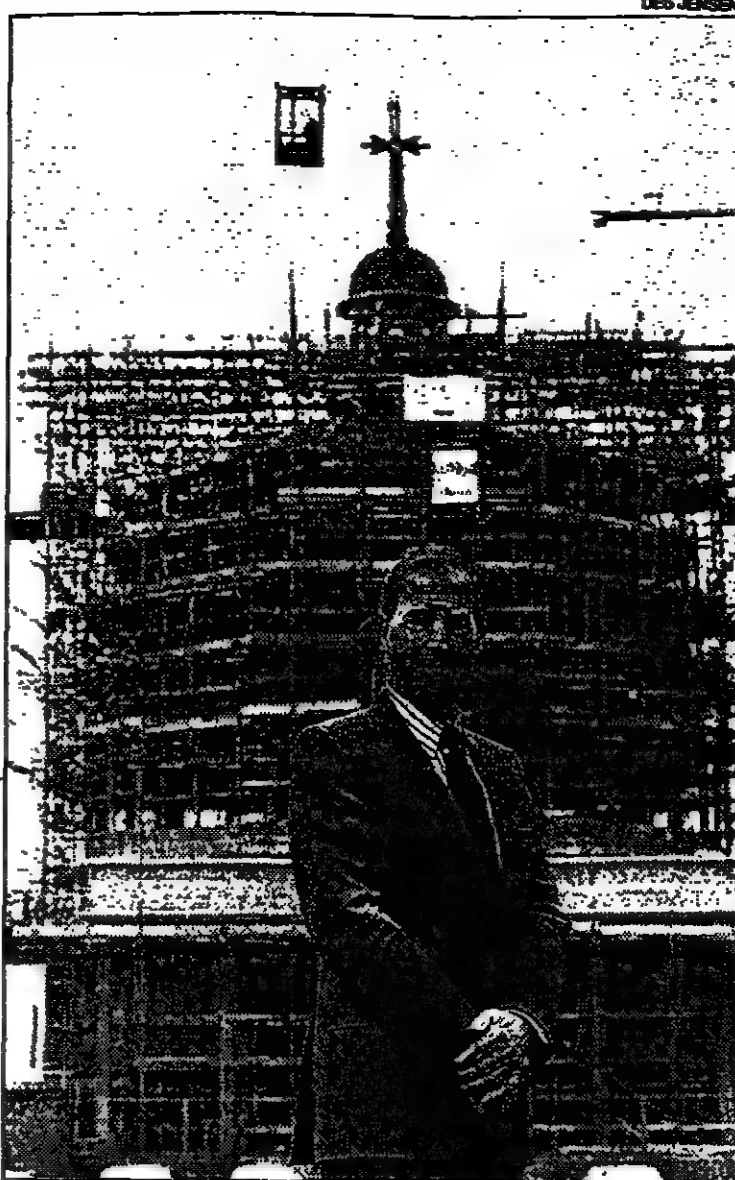
"A very different aspect of the corporation's work in the time ahead will be to find new owners for its rental and shared ownership housing and its community-related assets," Mr Henshaw says, adding that it will be important to see that Milton Keynes's parks, local meeting places and other buildings used for community purposes are managed and maintained properly.

"The completion of all this work by 1992 should place Milton Keynes in a position to face the future with continuing confidence," he says. "Moreover, our predominantly young and growing population will make Milton Keynes one of the few places with an expanding workforce. Along with this growth will come more of the facilities expected in a self-sufficient regional centre of this size."

"Another of Milton Keynes's advantages is the way it responds to an increasing general awareness of the importance of the environment. The benefits of a modern infrastructure, spacious layout and attractive landscape and their effect on the quality of life are becoming more and more appreciated.

"The leading role Milton Keynes is taking in energy conservation and efficiency is making another special contribution to the local scene."

He says the development corporation will maintain these high standards and lay down a framework to facilitate their continuation by the new administrators. "While there are many challenges ahead, 1992 offers every prospect of continuing success for Milton Keynes."



Voluntary building: Frank Henshaw in front of the shared church



Easy rider: a cyclist on the Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes

City leaves the drawing board

The last two stages of the successful development master plan are ready

By the time the Milton Keynes Development Corporation passes its portfolios to the local borough council and the Commission for New Towns, the plans for the last of the city's 22,000 acres will be in place (David Young writes).

The last two stages of the city's development will create two areas of housing, shopping, leisure and industry equal in size to many smaller new towns such as Bracknell, and established centres such as Amersham.

The developments, on the eastern and western flanks, will be completed by the new administrators, but they will be part of the original overall plan for the city - a plan which had its critics but which has been rigidly adhered to and is now seen as the most important reason Milton Keynes is emerging as a well-integrated and successful community.

The planning process started in 1967 and the master plan, filling two large volumes, was first seen by the public in 1970 and gave the broad guideline for land use. It still provides the framework for the detailed planning of the city 21 years later.

The preparation of a district plan is the first stage of the process. These plans cover several of the grid squares into which the site is divided.

The last two areas now being planned, East Milton Keynes North and West Milton Keynes, left the final drawing boards in 1989 and several exhibitions were held to allow for comments from the public and alterations by the planners.

The final district plan is now used to prepare structure plans for the individual grid squares and these are used in the development corporation's application for planning permission. Before this stage, however, the corporation consults the Milton Keynes borough council and the Buckinghamshire county council. Locals then have another chance to make representations to the environment department before the plan is approved.

The system has been criticised, but most local authorities and organisations recognise that without the streamlined system of planning Milton Keynes would never have happened. More importantly, the cohesive structure of the city would have been tampered with at an early stage.

The development plan has been seen as sacrosanct and the environment department will receive six more planning applications, so that by the time the development corporation bows out, all the plans will have been approved.

THE FACTS

- Ten per cent of Milton Keynes residents are aged between 25 and 29, compared with 8 per cent nationally
- Twelve per cent of the city's population is aged over 60. The national figure is 21 per cent
- Seventy per cent of households have cars, compared with the national average of 63 per cent
- Of those working, 66 per cent stay within the city boundaries. The ring road system means 25 per cent can get to work in under ten minutes, and 75 per cent in under 30 minutes
- About 25,000 people travel into Milton Keynes every day to work; 19,600 leave the city to go to their jobs
- Fifty per cent of people in Milton Keynes have joined local clubs and organisations and 9 per cent belong to a voluntary work group
- About 66 per cent of residents are buying their homes; another 7 per cent are buying through shared ownership schemes

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The government... Training and... Councils has resulted in... which could have been... Milton Keynes.

While many TECs... country are struggling to... for the unemployed... Keynes and north Bucks... to concentrate on training... people up the employ... thus creating jobs for the

The TEC is chaired by Daniel, the vice-chancellor of Open University, which is employer in Milton Keynes, recognising that the city is a to the recession, the TEC's redundancy task force employers and employees redundancy and recruitment a hotline (0908 322482) to deal with redundancy training.

Michael Hind, the chair of the TEC, says: "The provides a co-ordinated response to threats to individual level. Counselling will be those affected, with those to retraining and re-coherent approach harmful impacts of

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Pupils at the Milton Keynes Japanese boarding school get a taste of excellence in a nutrition lesson. With the highest concentration of Japanese companies in Britain outside London, Milton Keynes was well placed when international bidding began to house the Gyosai

International School, the largest Japanese boarding school in Europe. That Milton Keynes was chosen over sites in Paris and Rome is an indication of how favourably the Japanese looked on the Milton Keynes concept and how impressed they were with the city's facilities.

The school, opened in April 1987 on a 16-acre site near Wilton Lake in the east of the city, provides a "traditional" — which now includes coaching in American football and baseball — Japanese education for 500 children of expatriate Japanese working throughout Europe.

Training to taste success

Many of the companies that have moved to Milton Keynes brought their workers with them, and several have tripled their workforces, resulting in a big demand for well-trained staff.

The government initiative in setting up Training and Enterprise Councils has resulted in a system which could have been designed for Milton Keynes.

While many TECs throughout the country are struggling to find a role for the unemployed, the Milton Keynes and north Bucks TEC is able to concentrate on training and moving people up the employment ladder, thus creating jobs for the unemployed.

The TEC is chaired by Dr John Daniel, the vice-chancellor of the Open University, which is the largest employer in Milton Keynes. Recognising that the city is not immune to the recession, the TEC has set up a redundancy task force to help employers and employees deal with redundancy and recruitment, and has a hotline (0908 322488) to help people deal with redundancy and job hunting.

Michael Hind, the chief executive of the TEC, says: "The task force provides a co-ordinated and immediate response to threatened redundancies at individual and company level. Counselling will be offered to those affected, with the aim of leading to retraining and re-employment. Our coherent approach minimises the harmful impacts of cutbacks."

Milton Keynes is geared to improve the prospects of those in work, as well as assist those who are unemployed to find jobs. David Young reports

Local companies will also soon benefit from having a polytechnic nearby, providing a pool of highly qualified people with the skills in demand in the area, as well as carrying out important research for companies in the city.

Construction is about to start on a site near the Open University campus, and the polytechnic will be run under contract by Leicester polytechnic, with back-up from the Open University and the local college of further education.

From September this year, full-time and part-time courses will be available, including a BSc in business information systems, a BSc in software engineering, and HND and HNC in mechanical engineering. The centre will be headed by Professor Peter Thewis, Hewlett Packard professor of computing science, who has been at Leicester polytechnic since 1982.

He says: "Leicester polytechnic has a tradition of close collaboration with local and national industry. Clearly, with the opening of this exciting new

development in Milton Keynes, we are looking forward to developing closer links with the public and private sector, and we hope these links will be one of the strengths of the new polytechnic."

The college of further education is also about to expand. The move is aimed at providing places for an additional 500 students and is costing an initial £4.2 million, which, with equipment, will rise to £5.3 million once the development on the Woughton campus is complete.

'Companies will soon benefit from a polytechnic on the doorstep, providing highly qualified people'

Including other centres at Wolverton and Blechley, the college will have facilities for up to 6,000 students. The new building, of 4,450 square metres, will accommodate facilities for management and business studies, and courses in information technology, and health courses.

Roger Watts, the college finance and resources officer, says: "Building should commence in May and hopefully be completed by summer 1993 for a September 1993 intake. There will be lecture theatres and computer

rooms. Everything will be accessible for students with handicaps.

The demand in Milton Keynes for further education is increasing, and that's why the Department of Education and Science has approved funding to expand the college.

In Milton Keynes, the links between industry and education are, however, forged at a much earlier stage. A partnership between secondary schools and businesses has been in operation for more than two years.

The Education Business Partnership is a group of industrialists and teaching representatives which encourages interaction between schools and industry.

Links have been established with more than 100 businesses with the aim of ensuring that school-leavers are better equipped for adult life, and that businesses acquire workers with relevant skills. A course called Insight into Business also gives those going into further education a chance to talk to young managers.

Jane Henshaw, the manager of the business partnership, says: "It is a real partnership, run by equal numbers of people from education and industry, offering a service to both. The majority of our work is done for schools but we promote mutual understanding. If someone is thinking of applying for a degree course in architecture, it makes sense to spend a day or two shadowing someone who does the job."

The moving force behind business

What can Milton Keynes offer to businesses looking for a new site for an office or factory? Cheap loans for building? Enterprise zone allowances? Incentives from the council in the shape of rates holidays and subsidised rents? Development area status?

The answer to all of these is no. Companies that have relocated there have simply weighed up the advantages that the city offers in terms of office space, factory sites, housing and amenities and communications with other business centres.

Another myth — that only established high-tech companies from Japan, or those selling an established central London site, can afford to go to Milton Keynes — can also be dispelled.

The employment structure in the city almost mirrors the national picture in terms of the balance between the manufacturing and service sectors. During 1989-90 the growth of the services sector was higher than that achieved nationally. Jobs increased by 3,700 compared with 2,700 in the previous year. Retail distribution has grown by 1,296 jobs, banking, finance and insurance by 899 jobs, business services by 641 jobs, and postal services and telecommunications by 523 jobs.

Employment in the manufacturing industry has decreased slightly, in line with national trends, although in some areas there has been steady growth. In the motor components business there are now 207 more jobs than a year ago, and as befits a city which in the past 20 years has seen 16 million new trees planted, there are a growing number of jobs in the horticultural industry.

The type of company relocating also follows the national trend. Most are small, employing fewer than 50 people, and the average size of workforces is 22 employees. No single employer dominates the local economy, with the top ten employers each contributing less than 3 per cent of the employment; about 65 per cent of com-

Many companies have relocated to the city despite the lack of subsidies and special incentives

panies employ ten people or fewer.

Every weekday 19,600 commuters leave the city and 25,000 come in, illustrating the good communications the city has with the rest of the Home Counties and the south Midlands.

The type of company now coming to Milton Keynes demonstrates its attractiveness to all sectors. The city is the home of Alps Electric, a Japanese company that has tripled in size since its arrival three years ago and is now the largest employer in the manufacturing sector with more than 600 staff. Alps Electric makes components for the television and video-recorder industry and exports more than half its production from Milton Keynes.

The company, which hopes to supply the Japanese market, has a philosophy of building strong links with the community. Kyoshi Watano, the managing director, says:

"We cannot deny our responsibilities to other companies in the area. We want to give every employee his or her fruits. At the same time we should make every effort to contribute to the community."

Typical of the companies which have moved to Milton Keynes is Page and Moy, the marketing services agency that used to operate in Rickmansworth and Leicester, but came under one roof at a new business centre in Linford Wood in 1989.

Cathy Dodsworth, the administration manager, says: "One of the prime objectives of moving to Milton Keynes was to pull two separate resources together, which we have done successfully. People have various opinions about Milton Keynes but all of our staff like working here. The city is easy to get to and easy to move around in. The building could have been purpose-built for us. It is more or less perfect, and it reflects the high-tech image that our company likes to portray."

Parcelforce, the parcels division of the Royal Mail, chose Milton Keynes for its headquarters. Parcelforce started in the city in 1988 and now has more than 350 staff running the operation, which employs 12,000 nationally. More than 150 of the head office staff have bought homes in the city.



Popular move: Parcelforce headquarters in the city

Eyes on the European prize

THE Milton Keynes exporter of the year award is announced today by the local chamber of commerce and will be presented by Sir Leon Brittan, the EC Commissioner.

The fact that the award attracted so many entries from companies that are major exporters from the new city, and that it is sponsored by Mercedes Benz (UK), one of the city's main importers, reflects the international flavour of the Milton Keynes business community.

The task of the chamber, headed by Philippa Eccles, is to ensure that local companies have a service geared to seeking opportunities within Europe, alerting companies which can exploit them and providing back-up from local experts.

The chamber has a Europe desk looking for openings in the single European market and in Eastern Europe. The desk is sponsored by Ernst and Young, Fomemores and Staggard and Chartered Bank. It is also supported by NatWest,

the local Training and Enterprise Council, and the local council and development corporation.

The chamber is also supporting a roadshow for telecommunications and electronics companies looking for opportunities in northeast France. Ms Eccles says: "We try to offer the business community services in a form which is quickly and easily available and have had several successful seminars on issues which will affect local companies."

Europe's No.1 adhesive tape manufacturer chose Milton Keynes

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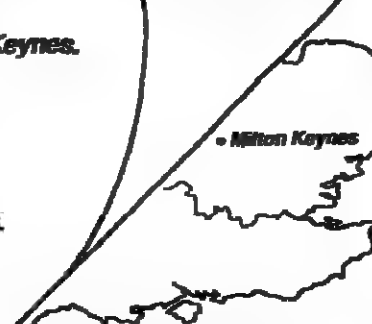
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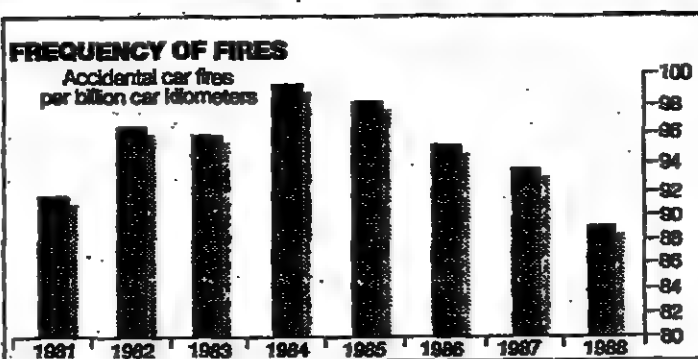
Fifty thousand cars catch fire in Britain each year. Now researchers want safety inspections. Kevin Eason reports

A charred car at the roadside sends a shudder down the spine of even the most seasoned motorist. To be involved in an accident in which fire then spreads uncontrollably through your car is the stuff of nightmares. Pictures of last month's M4 pile-up, in which ten people died, showed the horrific consequences of a blaze in a serious crash and provoked calls for an enquiry into vehicle fire safety. The accident was a vivid illustration of the dangers of vehicle fire but, surprisingly, was not a true guide to the risk faced by Britain's 21 million drivers. The incidence of accidental car fires is falling, according to an authoritative survey published this week by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which represents Britain's leading manufacturers of cars and lorries. The society ordered a study from ICE Ergonomics, based at Loughborough University, in Leicestershire, after learning that,



M4 inferno: ten died in this pile-up last month. Studies show that old cars are more likely to catch fire

according to Home Office statistics, vehicle fires had almost doubled in ten years, from 27,000 to 50,000 a year. Fears over the use of new fuels, brake fluids and lubricants added to worries that the car makers were producing potential fireballs. Anxiety was also growing that cars with more complex electronics and fuel injection systems could be increasing the problems. Faulty electronics were blamed in 40 per cent of accidents. In another 43 per cent, the blame was put on faulty components, such as fuel linkages that allowed petrol to spill on to a hot exhaust. Petrol was blamed as the main cause for the spread of fire, accounting for 60 per cent of cases, and upholstery was responsible for 15 per cent. The good news from the ICE



researchers was that the incidence of fire breaking out in a collision is small, only about 3.4 per cent of all crashes recorded in the ten years to 1988. After discounting possible deliberate fires, which account for one in three of all vehicle blazes,

ICE says the incidence has dropped steadily since 1984. Further investigation by the society revealed that manufacturers are fitting elaborate cut-out systems in the electronic fuel pumping systems of their new cars.

The car that comes with built-in romance

ONE of the most expensive beauty contests of the decade will be lined up by Europe's car makers during the next few months. Buyers wanting a new car in what the manufacturers call the M1 segment, better known as the small medium range, will be spoilt for choice (Kevin Eason writes). The Escort-Orion series, which cost £1 billion to develop, is already with us, but is judged by many to lack its older sister's charm. More eagerly awaited are Vauxhall's new Astra and the facelifted, more modern lines of the Volkswagen Golf. In every contest, however, there is always an outsider, the bookies' long shot that could just capture the punters' imagination. This



Newcomer: the Volvo is one of the ZX models in the range. Citroën has not previously had a car in the mid range, which accounts for a third of all British sales. Citroën has always moved straight from its Metro-sized AX

to the BX hatchbacks and estates. The ZX is an ambitious intrusion into a market that has long been dominated by Citroën's rivals. The ZX does not have the typically off-beat approach we have come to expect from Citroën. Instead, here is a small car that looks good, if unexceptional, performs well, if not brilliantly, and handles with ease. There is no bizarre whooshing hydraulic suspension system, although a clever "self-steer" effect is programmed into the rear of the car, which forces the back wheels to move slightly in the same direction as the turning front wheels. The result is excellent adhesion on corners. I fear few buyers will rave about the car's good looks, as it has that usual bland Euro-appearance. Sit behind the wheel, however, and the benefits of Citroën's well thought-out cabin and easy driving start to converge. Young lovers, for instance, will like the sliding rear seats to create extra leg room. Owners can alternatively add to the 12.1 cubic feet

of boot space available by putting the seats upright. The electric windows also remain live after the ignition is switched off. The ZX comes to Britain in June in four basic models: two-carbonated 1.4-litre cars called the Reflex and Advantage, a fuel-injected 1.6-litre Astra model, and the top-of-the-range, 127mph, 1.9-litre injection car, appropriately named the Volcano. The prices, being announced soon, are bound to be competitive, given Citroën's insistence that it can penetrate the market even against such venerable opposition as the Escort, Golf and Astra. Citroën may have an advantage during the next few months as the Escort is labouring to attract buyers and the Astra and Golf are both due for launch in Britain in the autumn.

Your name on a plate

Drivers who want the prestige of their own personal number plate should put on their thinking caps before next Wednesday when the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency opens its select registration scheme for the second time. August 1-registration numbers will be on offer, ranging from £210 for J2 CAT to £1,550 for J1 BOB. For applications, ring the DVLA on 0734-757575.

Shows on the road

SHOWTIME is fast approaching. Exhibition dates for the diary include: May 5 and 6, National Kitcar and Classic Show at the Royal Showground, Kenilworth, Warwickshire; May 4, 5 and 6, Classic and Sportscars International at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham; and June 9, Esso Bristol to Bourne-mouth Run of 350 vintage. Advance warning: MG World, the show for the classic MG sports cars, will start on August 31.

British Nissan

NISSAN has been given the official status of "British manufacturer" by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the first time since the Thirties that the title has been awarded. Nissan follows in the footsteps of the American multinationals, Ford and Vauxhall, which won their titles early this century.

Land-Racers

LAND Rover will be the official vehicle supplier for the first west to east running of the Paris to Peking vehicle marathon, known as the Marathon Raid. Altogether, 37 Land-Rovers will be provided for 260 competitors aiming to be the first to cover almost 10,000 miles through six countries in 27 days. The first crossing was in 1907, when Le Main, the French newspaper, supported 103 vehicles, starting from Peking. The first past the post after two months was the Italian driver Marquis Borghese.

Higher pollution

TRUCK and bus makers in Brazil must in future place the exhaust pipes in the upper part of their vehicles and pointing upwards. The aim is to send emissions over the heads of other road users. Christopher Bowers, the director of the Environmental Transport Association, the drivers' help organisation that encourages green policies, says: "This is important in that it cleans the streets and the

ROADWISE

fumes do not go straight into people's lungs, but it does nothing for the general environment."

Double first

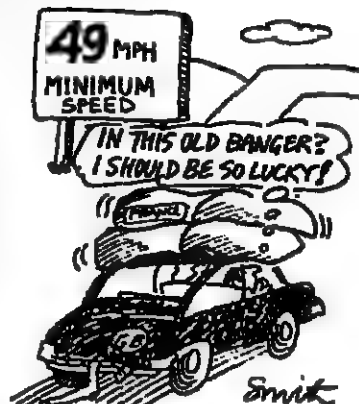
GOOD news for Ford. The heavily criticised new Escort range has been voted the best saloon up to 1.4 litres in a national survey conducted by Fleet News magazine. The car voted best estate was the Ford Sierra.

Reliable choice

COMPANY car drivers look for reliability first in their choice of model, according to a survey by PHH Altair, of Swindon, Wiltshire. More than half emphasised they wanted their car to be dependable, while 20 per cent said safety was their main concern.

Keep up the speed

SEALINK Stena is warning drivers on its Channel crossings to be aware of alterations to traffic rules when they leave the ferry in France. The changes include a 49mph (80kph) minimum speed limit on autoroutes when there is good visibility.



Drivers and all passengers are also required to wear seat belts both in front and rear seats. Offences against the seat belt laws carry fines of between 150 and 230 francs.

Price brake

AUDI says that, compared with the original model, the price increases on its new 100 range, to be launched on May 8, will be less than the rate of inflation. The prices range from £19,247 for the 2.3-litre 133bhp 3E to £26,160 for the 2.8-litre 230bhp V6 2.8E quattro.

Greener Ford

FORD, Britain's biggest car and van maker, is cutting back drastically on its use of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The company says that by 1992 CFCs used in its worldwide manufacturing plants will be only 10 per cent of 1988 levels.

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A fair play crusade that has royal patronage

By TOM CLARKE

British sport has been examining its conscience. How can the erosion of the values of sportsmanship and fair play be halted? What can be done to restore the players' respect for the letter and the spirit of the rules? Why are the cheats allowed to prosper?

The Duke of Edinburgh called together some 30 British sportspeople this month to ask those questions. He was puzzled and saddened: as president of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), as a former international competitor and president of the International Equestrian Federation, and, most of all, as an enthusiast for sport.

"In some countries and in some sports," he said, "anything has become permissible as long as you aren't caught. The end justifies the means."

His day-long consultation in the chapter library of St George's House at Windsor Castle involved administrators such as Mary Glen Haig, a member of the International Olympic Committee, Peter Comi, chairman of the Royal Regatta, Peter Vannorren, chairman of the Sports Council and president-elect of the Rugby Union, Marea Hartman, chairman of the British Amateur Athletic Board, Ron Ennes, chairman of the CCPR,

Peter Lawson, the CCPR's general secretary, and David Pickup, director-general of the Sports Council, former international athletes in Mary Peters and John Boulter, Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, and Kate Hoey, a Labour MP with a particular interest in sport, lawyers in Robert Reid QC and Charles Woodhouse, Chief Constable Brian Hayes of Surrey, Michael Reynolds of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, and an industrialist in Harold Bolter.

What it did not involve was anybody who had been at the sharp end in 1991: the much-discussed Rupert Holzer and any one of a number of cricketers, footballers and rugby players; their experiences of the realities and demands of today would have modernised the idealism of times long gone. And there was nobody from television, the great and greedy supplier (and funder) of sport but whose eye has been too busy for the comfort of some of the people in sport.

The passion of Colin Cowdrey shone through the theories and the uncertainties of what could and could not be done. The chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) went straight to the point: "Our game is out of control at Test level, and we are determined to put in the firmest, strictest measures. Hardly a Test match goes by



Cowdrey admires Clough

when I don't see something desperate that I wish they would wipe out."

Then, he addressed the other administrators: "I believe a great many of the governing bodies have not reacted positively enough, turning a blind eye. We've got an uphill struggle to put it right."

Cowdrey recalled a meeting with Sir Donald Bradman in Australia in January: "I told him what we were planning to talk about. He was fascinated by the whole concept and was delighted we were taking an initiative to

restore old-fashioned standards and the importance of maintaining the spirit of the game."

From October 1, Test cricket will have a code of conduct, enforced by a match referee. It was approved at the ICC meeting in Melbourne in January by six votes to one (Australia was the dissenting voice) and it has the backing of leading players from around the world. "They have all told us that the sooner we introduce it the better," Cowdrey said.

The framework within which the Test referee will work will be decided by the ICC at Lord's in July. But the plan is for the referee, selected from an independent and international panel, to speak to the players, the umpires and managers before and after play; he will remind them of their responsibilities and he will be empowered to impose, at the end of each day's play and perhaps with the help of television evidence, instant fines, whether for dissent from an umpire's ruling or for insufficient overs bowled.

He is convinced that the plan, which has been examined by Lord Griffiths, president of MCC and a Lord of Appeal, is law-proof. "Our motive is to promote the game, to defend the players' profession, not to deprive them of it."

The need for co-operation be-

tween players and officials was underlined by Garth Crooks, former chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, and Peter Willis, president of the Football Referees' Association.

Crooks said: "The greatest problem is inconsistency in interpreting the laws from one country to another, from one referee to another. Referees and players have grown apart. Fair play has to be promoted actively. Brian Clough will not allow his team to take liberties on the field; neither will Howard Kendall nor Ron Atkinson. More managers and directors have to take a share of the responsibility for the actions of the players."

Others cited the success of professional golf in self-discipline based on the players' own demands and even the troubled world of tennis with its scale of penalties created by the players themselves.

Those, surely, are lines to pursue: the competitors have to be part of the authority that lays down the standards of behaviour they are expected to conform to.

There are other encouraging signs. Fair play could be a deciding factor in the World Cup rugby union final next autumn: if the scores are level after extra time and if the teams have scored the same number of tries through-

out the tournament, then the team which has had the fewer players sent off during the tournament will be declared the winner. The Football Association's vision of a super league includes a code of conduct for players and managers. And the CCPR's Fair Play in Sport: A Charter of Conduct, published last year, has been translated into 12 languages, distributed nationally and internationally, and been adopted by 26 countries.

Prince Philip pointed towards an all-sport strategy to promote fair play, from the schools, through the clubs, to the governing bodies, and perhaps to a night of fair-play presentations on the lines of awards in cinema and theatre.

The consultation was concerned mainly with fair play but, again and again, it became the government's lack of interest in sport, at school and beyond.

There were no specialist physical recreation teachers in the 20,000 primary schools in Britain. There had been a reduction in time allocated to sport for the 14-plus age group in state schools from 128 minutes to 99 minutes a week, which, after travelling and changing, meant only 70 minutes of actual playing.

There were no teacher training colleges exclusively for PE, and the general-purpose TFCs were not producing enough of the right people (and then some of the right

ones were being lured into the private leisure industry). Frank Dick, the British Amateur Athletic Board's director of coaching, said: "Sport is regarded as trivial by those in authority."

Prince Philip said that over the past ten years the contribution of sport to society at all levels had been taken for granted by parliament and public authorities; it should not be left to chance. And Robert Atkins admitted that since he had become minister for sport last July, there had not been time for one question to him in the Commons and there had been mention of sport in only two adjournment debates.

What happens next? Already Prince Philip and Peter Lawson are considering a similar initiative for later in the year, bringing together administrators, referees, competitors and coaches to identify and promote standards.

Good! And they must make sure that the rest of sport listens to what they have to say.

RUGBY UNION

Schizophrenia sets in as game faces dreadful quandary

By GERALD DAVIES

IF EIGHT months ago the faint hope existed that rugby union might establish a true code either to safeguard the amateur status of the game or determine an alternative and firm set of principles, there can hardly be such optimism today as the season draws to a close.

To have created the setting for the sport which everybody recognises, approves and with which player and administrator wish wholeheartedly to be associated, is far from being realised, the matter remains in limbo.

The impression that remained, however, of the international rugby season was of a game confidently at ease with itself. Each Saturday became an occasion to savour.

The play, by and large, managed to excite, though not necessarily to satisfy. Ticket demand exceeded supply; audiences were reasonably high for television. Notably, there was no violence; barely a hint of grown men wanting to glower darkly at each other all afternoon. At least, not in any way that was memorably offensive, all seemed well with the rugby world. But how true a picture does this represent?

Rugby union, in truth, remains in a dreadful and unenviable quandary. The most public statement of discord, dare I raise it again, was England's refusal to turn up for their post-match interviews in Cardiff. Whatever the reasons, they were clearly unhappy. Welsh players, more discreetly but no less disturbingly, have also been spending their time during the season negotiating, individually, the price of an interview, as well as much else.

If, last year, men whispered through the sides of their mouths about players being

paid, the mood has now been created where such matters are openly and not embarrassingly discussed. Players, noting the shilly-shallying of the administrators and caring little for discretion, write to the clubs with their financial terms. If no lead is taken, they will take their own.

Then, there is the illustration of present rugby thinking: the London division preferred to ignore the England captain when, because of business commitments, he excused himself from training. Unlike the administrators and coaches, Carling was expected, seemingly, to give the same undying devotion to club, division and country. An amateur player has the right, as indeed has a coach or administrator, to say "no" now and again and to expect sympathy when he cannot quite make it.

There are other examples. Tony Stanger, the Scotland wing, was refused permission by the Scotland team management to join the Barbarians - for whom he has yet to play - on their Easter tour. After having played the full season, fulfilled his international obligations, he was required to join yet more squad training for the contingent that is to go to the United States. Craig Chalmers, being very much his own man, ignored the call and played for the Barbarians.

The Welsh players, Chris Bridges and Emyr Lewis, were not allowed to accept the Barbarians' invitation to go to Hong Kong on the very curious grounds that this would make them "privileged players". Such privilege was thought to be to the squad's disadvantage. The resentment at being denied what is one of rugby's great honours will fester.

Thus, not only does a player

see himself as being denied any financial rewards but he no longer has the freedom to choose either. What are the players to do? Make errors of judgment, it seems.

A justice of the peace - an example of constancy and rectitude, I hope - and chairman of a local hospice, wanted a ball autographed by the successful England team to raise funds for the charity. He made enquiries and was told by a prominent RFU committee man that for this to be done the players collectively would charge £350,000. Oh, dear.

Are the players so driven to mercenary tactics, by the extraordinary demands made of them, they are reduced to cheap tricks? Are there innocents around who still talk of the spirit of the game? And if so, are they not concerned how tainted the image is beginning to look?

A further dilemma was brought into sharp focus in Wales last week. Neath RFC has employed a director of rugby at a salary of £36,000 a year. The chairman, Elgan Rees, the former Welsh wing, resigned, expressing concern at the appointment's implications.

So that, in much the same way that the various unions can enjoy the rich pickings of their many financial deals from which the international player is largely excluded, the uneasy tension and contradictions rest also on the shoulders of the secretary, treasurer and coach, say, of a club when one of their kind is paid and they are not.

Rugby is no surer of its identity today than it was eight months ago. If anything, its schizophrenic condition is probably worse, but the trend away from amateurism is unmistakable.

MOTOR RACING

Pressure mounts on Ferrari

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN IMOLA

THE Formula One circus has returned to one of its traditional homes, Imola, in the Emilia-Romagna region of central Italy, which is only a few miles up the road from Maranello, Ferrari's town. Motor racing here is more important than football, which in Italy, is quite something.

The passion for it is all-

consuming. Most of the 200,000 tickets have been sold for the grand prix on Sunday. The prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, and the man who may say really rules Italy, Gianni Agnelli, of Fiat, will be visiting in the next few days. The prancing horse and the red car hold centre stage. Ferrari must win, nothing else is acceptable.

After the dismal outings in Phoenix and São Paulo, the Ferrari leadership met for hours behind closed doors at Maranello. Nothing says secret for long in Italy and it soon became clear that Alain Prost and Cesare Fiorio, the team's manager, were at loggerheads.

Then Prost told a French newspaper that Ferrari could be the best team of all, if only Ron Dennis was the manager.

So the knives are out for Fiorio, and not only from within Ferrari - it is no secret that the team's president, Piero Fusero, is no great fan of his. The general public is also displeased and at last week's testing here in Imola, a number of banners criticising Fiorio were in evidence.

Ferrari have done much work on their car, the work they

should have done over the winter. But Fiorio argued that at the end of last season they had the best car, that McLaren would start the season with a new engine, that Williams had a completely new car. Ferrari, he said, was tried and tested and would prevail. Yet so far McLaren have won both races and the Williams is the most improved car on the grid.

So Fiorio is under intense pressure. The new car will not be ready for another month at least, and in the meantime the championship might slip away. The role of main challenger may fall to Nigel Mansell and Riccardo Patrese, who were here last year.

Their cars have been let down by the semi-automatic gearbox and it could be that Imola is too hard a circuit for them. Yet even Scania has gone as far as to say that the man to watch will be the rejuvenated Patrese, who won here last year.

Michèle Alboreto's accident last Saturday showed once again that this is a fast and dangerous track. The Italian crashed at Tamburello, the 500kph bend where Nelson Piquet and Gerhard Berger have crashed in past years.

TABLE TENNIS

England keep an unbeaten record

By RICHARD EATON

TWO hard-earned wins for the English national champion, Carl Pearson, were the basis of a fine 3-1 victory over Japan before their home supporters in Chiba yesterday, making it likely England will qualify for the second, knockout stage of the world championships later this week.

England's men also beat Nigeria 3-0, as expected, thus retaining unbeaten in three matches. That record might not have been intact but for Pearson's contrasting efforts against the adhesive defender, Coji Matsushita, and the fierce striker, Kayomoto Iwasaki.

He saved two game points in the second game against Matsushita to win the opening contest 21-17, 25-23 and sternly resisted a late revival from Iwasaki.

Matthew Syed, making his world championship debut for England, lost the doubles in straight games with Chen Xinhua. But Chen produced a tough, fighting performance against Iwasaki before struggling to an important win by 15-21, 21-19.

Although Andrea Holt produced the best win of her career to overcome the European champion, Daniela Guergelcheva, the women are at risk of relegation from the top category. The English national champion, aged 20, won 21-19, 21-17, to help her country to a 3-0 win over Bulgaria. But this was followed by a 3-0 loss to the holders, China.

Although the men's sideholders, Sweden, lost 3-0 to Yugoslavia, with world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, going down to Zoran Kalinic, they should still qualify for the second stage.

RESULTS: Men's world events: First round: Group A: England 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0, Japan 3-0. Group B: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group C: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group D: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group E: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group F: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group G: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group H: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group I: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group J: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group K: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group L: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group M: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group N: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group O: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group P: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group Q: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group R: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group S: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group T: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group U: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group V: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group W: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group X: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group Y: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0. Group Z: England 3-0, Japan 3-0, Korea 3-0, Bulgaria 3-0.

Women's team events: First round: Group A: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group B: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group C: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group D: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group E: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group F: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group G: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group H: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group I: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group J: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group K: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group L: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group M: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group N: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group O: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group P: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group Q: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group R: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group S: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group T: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group U: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group V: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group W: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group X: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group Y: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0. Group Z: England 3-0, Hungary 3-0, China 3-0, Korea 3-0.

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SPORT

West Indies happy to rely on a winning formula

Tour party can find no room for slow bowler

From JOHN WOODCOCK IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

AS AN indication of the calculated way West Indies now see the game of cricket, they will almost certainly be coming to England this summer with six fast bowlers. Not only that, it will be the first time they have toured anywhere without a specialist spinner.

You may imagine how that will affect their over-rate, and what a senseless there will be about watching them in the field, with only Vivian Richards and Carl Hooper to peddle the occasional off break. On the other hand, it will make them that much harder to beat.

Whether the sixth fast bowler will be Ian Bishop, of Trinidad, or Ian Allen, of St Vincent in the Windward Islands, was still undecided yesterday morning, when a specialist was expected from Trinidad with a report on Bishop's injured back. As their young fast bowler most likely to reach the greatest heights, Bishop is too valuable to West Indies to have any chances taken with his fitness.

Only Brian Lara, Hamesh Anthony and Allen (if he goes) have not already toured England with a full West Indian side. Lara is a neat and natural left-handed batsman in the Kalicharran mould, and Anthony the best of the latest crop of Antiguan fast bowlers. Anthony played six first-class matches for Glamorgan last year, and Lara scored 627 runs at an average of 69, a Trinidad

record, in this season's Red Stripe Cup, the Caribbean's premier competition.

The side's collective experience of cricket in England, both on tour and in the county championship, will be unparalleled. Between them they have already played 98 Test matches there. Allan Border, Australia's captain, believes that England have a fair chance of fending well but to do so they will have to think about bringing back Ian Botham. Anything less Australian than that it would be hard to imagine. England did, of course, come very close to holding West Indies over here a year ago, and English Test pitches are, overall, the best in the world for batting.

When the ball moves about in England it usually does so laterally rather than vertically. In theory, too, it should be possible to find West Indies out, because of their lack of spin, by producing an old-fashioned turner, as happened twice in Sydney in the 1980s; but I am not sure whether England any longer have spinners of their own who would be good enough to collaborate successfully in that.

Against Australia in recent weeks West Indies have shown themselves to be still a much stronger side than they were given credit for before the series started. For some years now, they have been about to meet their Waterloo, but whenever the moment of decision comes it is not they

who will crack. It is at the one-day game that they are more fallible now, and the reasons for that are worth considering.

For one, they are obliged to bowl a certain number of overs in a certain time. The slow over-rate as a tactical ploy is therefore ruled out. For another, the rules of one-day cricket are such that there is little return from bowling bouncers. To that extent, curiously enough, the limited-overs game corresponds more nearly to cricket as it was meant to be played than to the game which West Indies have developed to such effect.

At a time when Test crowds round the world, though to a lesser extent in England, are in serious decline, those for the fourth Test at Bridgetown were as good as anybody could remember. On the first four days the ground, which holds 15,000, was nearly full, the play taking place to the accompaniment of an impromptu band which grew in size and confidence that it came to calling itself the Kensington Overthrowers.

Last November in Karachi (population ten million) I watched West Indies play Pakistan in a more or less empty stadium; in the next Test in Faisalabad (population three million), every stand was empty when the captains tossed for innings; in Barbados (population 250,000) all roads led to the Oval.

This is good news for the island, where the game, once something of a religion, had seemed to be losing its appeal. For all that, the youngest of their three players in the team to England is Malcolm Marshall — and he is 33.

Match reports, Page 39



Reined in: Nicola Coe shows her disappointment as she has to deny her horse, Middle Road, the chance of defending his title at Badminton

Badminton trophy holder forced out by fetlock injury

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IN A further disappointment for the Coe family, Nicola Coe, the winner of Badminton last year, yesterday withdrew from next week's Whitbread championships after an injury to her horse, Middle Road. The 15-year-old gelding on which, as Nicola McIlvaine, she won the Whitbread Trophy, injured his fetlock joint at Brighthelm earlier this month. It was thought at first to be an overreach but the joint became swollen.

Mrs Coe, who made the decision to withdraw less than 24 hours after learning of the failure of her husband Sebastian's London Olympic 2000 bid, said yesterday: "I am bitterly disappointed but I couldn't bear to risk him breaking down at Badminton. He'll be retired now — at least he'll end his career as the Whitbread champion."

Their win last year, in which they defeated Blyth Tait and Messiah — later to become world champions — to second place, had been the fulfilment of a long-standing dream. The pair had competed successfully at international level for seven years but had had no big win.

Their first attempt at Badminton came in 1986. They made one mistake at the steps on the cross country. The following year Badminton was

cancelled. In 1988 Middle Road sprained a suspensory ligament.

The turning point came in 1989. At their second attempt at Badminton, they were lying fifth after the dressage but had a runout at the Vicarage Veer. "That changed my whole attitude," Mrs Coe said. "I had been competing at international level for nearly eight years and I was determined after that mistake I would never let Harold down again."

The win at Badminton last year propelled her to the forefront of the sport. She was disappointed not to be chosen for the World championships later that year. "Winning Badminton made me realise that I was good enough at last — I had been doing quite well for seven years but you have to win to be noticed." Recognition of a different sort came three months later, in August, when she married Sebastian Coe.

Unless Hugh Thomas, the director of the Whitbread championships at Badminton, has some more withdrawals eight of the 92 entries might not be able to compete next week.

Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, from New Zealand, has accepted a last-minute ride for Badminton on Just an Ace.

Gascoigne's place is taken by Batty

THE England manager, Graham Taylor, has named the uncapped David Batty as replacement for the injured Paul Gascoigne in the squad for next Wednesday's European championship qualifier against Turkey in Izmir.

The selection of the combative Leeds United midfielder player seems to provide final confirmation that Taylor is willing to do without both Chris Waddle and Bryan Robson, both of whom were controversially omitted from the squad he originally named. Since then, they have

helped steer their respective clubs into European finals.

Batty is expected to make his third England B appearance in the match against Iceland at Watford tomorrow but will then join the senior party. □ Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, and Mel Sterland, the club's former England international, have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after last week's League match with Queen's Park Rangers, where Gordon Strachan was sent off for the first time in his career.

United's success has disguised the facts

By DAVID MILLER

WHILE England happily celebrates Manchester United's welcome appearance in a European final for the first time in 23 years, the occasion may serve to show the extent to which English clubs have suffered from their six-year exclusion from European competition. If the result against Barcelona in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam favours United, it will only camouflage the collective inexperience that has accumulated.

Although Independent Television, in pursuit of salesmanship for its coverage of the final, was busy proclaiming on Wednesday night "A brilliant performance" after the victory over Legia Warsaw, the army team from Warsaw, the truth was that Legia were feeble in the first leg and then held United in a low-key second leg which attracted 44,000 of Old Trafford's phenomenally loyal followers.

Yet, there is no comparison between the present United side and that which beat Benfica at Wembley in 1968. The euphoria created by the emergence of Lee Sharpe, an exciting winger whose thundering goal on Wednesday night was reminiscent of the prime of Bobby Charlton, has helped disguise the facts.

Manchester's passage to the final has been very much by the nursery route. Pele, Wrexham, Montpellier and Legia.

Much of English football, during severance from European competition, has reverted to the instinctive, more physical, up-and-down tactics that were busy being exposed in the late Fifties and early Sixties... by Barcelona and others.

United's use of the long, high ball to Sharpe was naive and would be shut off by any intelligent full back standing off.

English teams with exceptional individual ability, such as Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Manchester United found early European success; but the real dominance, stemming from the principles of Sir Alf Ramsey and Jack

land will take time. The risk for Manchester United in Rotterdam is that a pair of old-fashioned centre backs, Pallister and Bruce, will be unhelped by unmarked players running at them from deep positions.

Under the guidance of Johan Cruyff, mastermind of Dutch football in the Seventies and now recovering from a heart attack, Barcelona, when they attack, often do so with any of ten players: the old "total" football.

Bayer were doing the same in their attempt to save the semi-final against Red Star, who led 2-1 from the away leg. Augenthaler, the Bayern sweeper, had scored in the 2-1 recovery, then sadly put through his own net to give Red Star victory. British football has had no Augenthaler or Koeman — sweeper for Barcelona — since the demise of Hansen at Liverpool: the most un-British player of the past decade.

Although conversation about Manchester in England tends to revolve around Waddle, the French club, only the third to reach the Champions final, is bristling with skill, including the defence, with such players as Amoroso, Moller, Di Meo and Casani. It promises to be a lively final against Red Star in Paris.

I am delighted that Uefa had the strength of its convictions and upheld the one-year ban on Milan for scandalous behaviour in the quarter-final second leg against Marseille. Yet, something should be done about the Marseille scandal, which is almost as archaic as Heyes before the 1985 disaster.

European competition will undoubtedly be the better, in variety, for the return of Liverpool and one other English club next season. One of the most important benefits for Manchester United's appearance in the final is that it will hasten the re-establishment of a full complement of English clubs, as present denied by the loss of points-status through a six-year absence.

Even Liverpool have lost something of this recently, a quality that has generally declined in the years of separation, and will now have to be regained.

Also lost is the art of "pressing", the Dutch-German technique of regaining possession in the opposing half of the field and which we saw in operation elsewhere on Wednesday night from television clips. Re-education in Eng-

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UN pledges

Kurdi sweet Iraqis

From CHRISTOPHER V

HEAVILY armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho yesterday, hours after Baghdad withdrew most of its forces there.

Such military sources, who took over control of the town from American troops, reported that there were signs of an influx of Kurdish refugees heading towards the first of the newly established camps of the United Nations in a valley two miles to the east of Zakho.

During the day, a group of armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived in Zakho, a town of about 10,000 people. The arrival poses a dilemma for the United Nations, who are seeking to evacuate hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees from the Turkish border, but are wary of a possible role that will get them bogged down in Iraq's internal conflict.

Yesterday, President Bush said that American troops would stay in northern Iraq as long as it is needed to help Kurdish refugees. He again urged the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, saying "it's

TODAY IN
THE TIMES

METROPOLIS

Jan Morris spends a day in the West End of London, a changed capital city which never exhausts the interest. Review.

NOSTALGIA

Richard Morrison on nostalgia (now for the Fifies), the cream bun of emotions. But with a healthy obsession with the past. Page 8

INTERVIEW

Baroness de Rothschild tells Carol Leonard what it means to bear the name family label in a world of claret and blue blood. Review.

INSIDE

Mother jailed
A mother who said she turned to crime because she was unable to pay household bills, collapsed sobbing in court yesterday when she was jailed for four years after admitting robbing seven building societies. Page 3

Aid for Hanoi
For the first time since the end of the Vietnam war, America is to give a symbolic amount of financial aid to Hanoi. The \$1 million offer is for artificial limbs for those injured in the war. Page 6

Fraud enquiry
The Serious Fraud Office is investigating a £3.5 million fraud suffered by National Home Loans, the mortgage lender. Page 21

The Times
The price of The Times will rise to 40p from Monday (45p on Saturdays).

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TOMORROW

The Times presents an opportunity for a reader to partner one of the leading golfers in the pro-am tournament preceding the Murphy's Cup at Fulford, York, in June. The winner of our competition, and a friend, will also enjoy a full day's hospitality at the tournament.

Jail sentence puts doubt on Moore

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Moore, the Harlequins and England hooker, was given a suspended jail sentence yesterday after admitting a charge of assault in a Nottingham public house last autumn. Moore, aged 29 and an integral part of the

England side which won rugby union's grand slam this season, must now wait to learn his sport's reaction.

He has been selected for the party to tour Australia and Fiji in July, as part of England's preparations for the World Cup this autumn but Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union whose full committee meets next Friday, expressed his concern at the effect the court case would have on "the image of rugby football and the international team".

"The committee will have to consider what has happened though I cannot anticipate whether his [tour] selection will be affected or not," Wood said. Moore was given a four-month prison sentence at Nottingham Magistrates Court, suspended for two years, and fined £500 for assault causing actual bodily harm on Mark Thorn, aged 22, a student at Nottingham Polytechnic.

Gillian Bignall, prosecuting, said a row began when Thorn made some "scoffious" comments about Moore, who was with colleagues from Harlequins — the club he joined this season from Nottingham, where he lived for ten years.

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Major makes early declaration for Manchester

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE prime minister yesterday began the process of making Manchester a genuinely national bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games by writing a letter congratulating the city on receiving the nomination from the British Olympic Association. Whereas Mrs Thatcher took several months to write to Manchester when it secured the previous nomination in 1988, her successor, whose love of sport is well known, demonstrated the change of interest.

John Major wrote: "There will obviously be very tough competition from around the world to stage the 2000 Olympics. Manchester has many attributes to commend it."

Manchester must now hope that the prime minister will translate his interest into action by perhaps attending the International Olympic



Committee session in Birmingham in June and certainly the session in September 1993 in the company of many other heads of state when the venue for the 2000 Games is decided.

Bob Scott, chairman of the bid, said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the letter. It is an immediate sign that we are a national bid and we have struggled for that status before." Although Manchester is not expecting government finance for

the facilities and the running of the Games, it is obviously hoping that some of the £60-75 million allocated annually to a new foundation paid by the football pools will be available for the building of stadiums.

Desmond Pitcher, the chief executive of Littlewoods, which proposed the scheme just before the budget last month, is on the committee of the Manchester bid.

Scott's first task is to concentrate on bringing the whole country behind Manchester. He is planning to open a London office and wants to raise the awareness of the government and the public to the benefits of the bid.

Manchester will also be building at least three and possibly eight new facilities before the 1993 IOC session. He knows that the new sites must have a use after the Olympics. A series of financial partnerships between the public and private sectors will be necessary. Scott said:

"We want to turn the dream facilities into deliverable facilities."

Until some more facilities have been completed in the North-West, Scott is not proposing to invite the IOC members to visit the city again. Although they will all be in Birmingham in June for the session, there are no plans for a tour of Manchester. Sixty-one members have already visited the city and conditions have not sufficiently changed since Manchester lost the vote to stage the 1996 Games.

Scott will deliberately delay concentrating on the international aspect of the Games although he will be going to Atlanta, the successful candidate for 1996, to debrief the group that put together the tender. The exact strategy of how Manchester will secure more than the 11 votes it got in the first round and the five in the second in its

attempt to get the 1996 Games will not be known until the other candidate cities are declared.

"If Paris were to bid, that would make a fundamental impact because there are certain votes from the French-speaking countries that you could write off," he said. Scott will be active internationally over the next year and will certainly visit the IOC HQ in Lausanne, from whom he received a telex of congratulations yesterday, but the main effort will only come after the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation said it would give its full support to Manchester although its secretary, Peter Lawson, said he was "personally disappointed at 28 people identified Manchester as having a better chance internationally to get the Games than London."

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